

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Case Nos. 08-13555, 08-01420 (SIPA)

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In the Matter of:

LEHMAN BROTHERS HOLDINGS INC., ET AL.,

Debtors.

- - - - -x

In the Matter of:

LEHMAN BROTHERS INC.,

Debtor.

- - - - -x

U.S. Bankruptcy Court

One Bowling Green

New York, New York

August 11, 2009

10:02 a.m.

B E F O R E:

HON. JAMES M. PECK

U.S. BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

1 MOTION of Bank of New York to Dismiss Complaint in Case No. 09-
2 01242

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4 SCHEDULING Conference on Defendant's Motion for Summary
5 Judgment and Debtors' Cross-Motion for Summary Judgment

6
7 MOTION of Trustee to Dismiss Complaint in Case No. 09-01160

8
9 MOTION of Unclaimed Property Recovery Service's Motion for
10 Orders (A) Compelling Payment of Unclaimed Funds by the New
11 York State Comptroller, (B) Lifting the Automatic Stay, or,
12 Alternatively, Providing Relief From the Automatic Stay, (C)
13 Allowing Payment for Services Provided Post-Petition and (D)
14 Other Relief

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24 Transcribed By: Esther Accardi

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 THE COURT: Please be seated. Mr. Miller, good
3 morning.

4 MR. MILLER: Good morning, Your Honor. May it please
5 the Court. Ralph Miller here from Weil Gotshal & Manges on
6 behalf of the debtor, Lehman Brothers Special Financing, known
7 as LBSF.

8 There are two matters on the docket this morning for
9 LBSF. And we understand that the Court wants to take up first
10 a motion to dismiss, which has been filed by BNY Corporate
11 Trust Services. And in just a moment I will yield to Mr.
12 Schaffer who will present that argument.

13 I do want to note that the second matter concerns
14 scheduling in another adversary proceeding, case number 8-
15 13555, Lehman Brothers Special Financing Inc. v. American
16 Family Assurance Company, known as AFLAC.

17 I do believe that there is a relationship between the
18 issues in the motion to dismiss and the second scheduling
19 issue, because it presents a unique situation where there are
20 many people who are eager to make the legal arguments that are
21 before the Court in the first motion, Your Honor. We think
22 that does bear on the other issues. So in some instances these
23 may go together. That is, the presence of parties in Court who
24 are eager to make these arguments, which the absent party
25 Perpetual presumably would make if, they were here, we think is

1 a factor to be considered. But we understand the order that
2 the Court would prefer us to start, and we're happy to do that,
3 of course, whatever the Court wants with that motion. But we
4 note that there may end up being some interaction between them
5 at the end of the day.

6 If that is the order the Court wishes to proceed,
7 which we understand it is, I will allow Mr. Schaffer to proceed
8 with this motion, unless the Court has --

9 THE COURT: Before we start on the BNY motion to
10 dismiss and the Perpetual litigation is there anyone else who
11 wishes to be heard in respect of the order in which we proceed
12 today?

13 MR. WEBER: Good morning, Your Honor. Rob Weber from
14 Skadden Arps on behalf of AFLAC.

15 We're happy to proceed in the order of the agenda.

16 THE COURT: Fine.

17 MR. WEBER: Thank you.

18 THE COURT: Let's do that. And in terms of the
19 subject matter relationship that appears to exist between the
20 two cases, I'm aware of that. And for that reason I don't
21 think the order matters.

22 MR. SCHAFFER: Your Honor, Eric Schaffer from Reed
23 Smith. I'm here today on behalf of BNY Corporate Trustee
24 Services Ltd.

25 Your Honor, why are we here? Our goal here and in

1 England is to avoid getting caught in the middle of a fight
2 between LBSF and Perpetual. We have a real risk of conflicting
3 judgments.

4 THE COURT: Let me ask you a question, Mr. Schaffer,
5 and I don't mean to interject after your second sentence. But
6 in light of what Mr. Miller said about the AFLAC litigation
7 let's just hypothesize something for a moment.

8 Let's assume, and this is purely a hypothetical, that
9 you succeed on your motion to dismiss, and let's also assume,
10 for the sake of discussion, that I promptly hear a summary
11 judgment in the AFLAC litigation and find as a matter of law
12 that the issues raised by your adversary in this litigation
13 should be found their way and that the Lehman priority is the
14 priority that applies as a matter of law and it can be applied
15 to all similar transactions, including this one, are you not
16 stuck in the very same problem of conflicting determinations
17 that make it impossible for you to act?

18 MR. SCHAFFER: Your Honor, first of all for purposes
19 of the Perpetual litigation, we're here in one case with one
20 holder, two discreet bond issues and we'll argue how applying
21 the law to the facts before us there is no alternative but to
22 dismiss or to stay or to abstain.

23 But to directly respond to your point, assuming that
24 the AFLAC litigation goes forward, it presents what LBSF has
25 referred to as a near-identical fact scenario, very similar

1 issues. If this Court were to find in favor of LBSF then I
2 think what would happen next is LBSF would take the High Court
3 up on its offer to say come back here, tell us what you'd like
4 under the UNCITRAL Model Law and we'll consider it. The High
5 Court has said if you want to come back and ask for application
6 of bankruptcy law -- of U.S. Bankruptcy law, we'll consider it.
7 It may be that it would be, if not res judicata, collateral
8 estoppel, it may be that the High Court would say we here in
9 England have made a decision with regard to applicable non-
10 bankruptcy law and now we will defer to the U.S. Court with
11 regard to the overlay of bankruptcy law.

12 I think this is something that -- there's one thing
13 that Mr. Miller and I agree on, that there should be some
14 coordination between the courts. And I think the question
15 you've raised is one we've all thought about. And we need to
16 find a way to ensure that there is consistency. We need to
17 find, at least from my perspective, that we don't have
18 conflicting judgments. And I think that's one way that it
19 could play out. Now, having said that you appreciate that
20 AFLAC is our co-defendant in that litigation, that in that case
21 we have an active noteholder and we have indemnification. So
22 it would be incumbent upon me to say I think AFLAC has gotten a
23 winning argument there.

24 THE COURT: Well, whether you're rooting for AFLAC or
25 not doesn't matter for purposes of this question.

1 MR. SCHAFFER: Right.

2 THE COURT: And the question really goes to the
3 conflict that your client is exposed to, not to court
4 communication or issues under the UNCITRAL Model Law, which
5 we'll get to at some point.

6 My question really goes to the dilemma that your
7 client seems to be in. Because even if you should prevail in
8 respect of the arguments you're making on the motion to
9 dismiss, you're exposed to the very same issue of potential
10 conflicting law, that maybe conflicting governing law that puts
11 you in a I can't win situation unless you have an indemnity
12 from a party in the case of Perpetual unwilling to give you
13 one. So what do you do about that?

14 MR. SCHAFFER: Well, we focus here on the case before
15 us. And in the Perpetual case, as we've written, as I'll
16 argue, we think dismissal is appropriate. That resolves the
17 issue with regard to the Perpetual litigation, which is what
18 we're here on first. It is conceivable that there could be a
19 different decision in AFLAC from what ultimately transpires in
20 England with regard to Perpetual. But if we're correct,
21 applying Rule 119, the other doctrines we've referenced, this
22 case should be dismissed or you should defer it to the court in
23 England. And, understand, the trustee, BNY, didn't create the
24 problem here. LBSF and related entities went out and
25 structured this transaction -- all of these transactions with

1 the intent to market them throughout Europe, Asia, Australia.
2 We didn't create the problem, we wish Perpetual were here. But
3 it's not and that's why we're just focusing on what we have
4 before us and the rules that we have. We do see AFLAC as an
5 opportunity if the English court would defer or will accept
6 that as being binding consistent with the model law.

7 THE COURT: Well, let me understand something very
8 basic. You're here.

9 MR. SCHAFFER: Yes.

10 THE COURT: Why is Perpetual a necessary and
11 indispensable party if you're here and obviously prepared to
12 vigorously defend the litigation and/or dismiss the litigation
13 which is certainly part of the defense.

14 MR. SCHAFFER: Your Honor, we are not here prepared to
15 defend on the merits. We are here because we were sued. We
16 are here on a motion to dismiss. If you look at Rule 19 you
17 start with the analysis, what's a necessary party and then
18 what's indispensable. And under necessary there are three
19 alternatives that can make a party necessary. Lehman has
20 argued at great length with regard to one of them, and they've
21 said that we are a necessary -- but Perpetual is not necessary
22 because we're an adequate representative. And that's simply
23 not the case.

24 If we had gotten direction and indemnification. If it
25 were satisfactory to us as required under the documents as

1 required under English law, we might be here as an adequate
2 representative. But there's no dispute that we have not been
3 indemnified. And the chancellor made clear in the course of
4 the proceeding and in the judgment, we don't have a duty. So
5 it would be a mistake to presume that whatever happens on the
6 motion before you today, if we lose that we are here on behalf
7 of Perpetual. I can't say that we will be.

8 THE COURT: Okay. Well, if you're not there on behalf
9 of Perpetual and if the case is not dismissed it looks as if
10 there will be nobody opposing the legal arguments made by LBSF.
11 And there'll be potentially a conflict in law. Alternatively,
12 if you are going to be appearing in the AFLAC litigation and
13 making arguments that are opposed to LBSF in that litigation
14 what's to prevent you from considering those arguments in the
15 AFLAC litigation as the equivalent arguments that you'd make
16 here if you were a party that was representing Perpetual here?

17 MR. SCHAFFER: Your Honor --

18 THE COURT: Because you're not going to take
19 inconsistent positions, are you?

20 MR. SCHAFFER: I think that's unlikely. I think that
21 with regard to Perpetual we may have no position. With regard
22 to the AFLAC litigation, you're correct, it's a separate case,
23 it involves common issues. And --

24 THE COURT: Aren't the legal issues for all practical
25 purposes the same?

1 MR. SCHAFFER: I think they are.

2 THE COURT: So if BNY is before me in a separate
3 litigation that involves identical legal issues, and is
4 asserting consistent with what it views as its obligations in
5 the AFLAC case, a position that is opposed to LBSF's legal
6 position, can I take that into consideration in deciding the
7 Perpetual case?

8 MR. SCHAFFER: Your Honor, I don't think that's a
9 basis for you to deny the motion to dismiss.

10 THE COURT: I wasn't asking that question. I was
11 asking can I, in your view, take into consideration for
12 purposes of the Perpetual litigation, arguments that BNY would
13 make in the AFLAC litigation that are of the same legal import?

14 MR. SCHAFFER: Assuming that we were here on the
15 merits of the Perpetual litigation, I think that it would be
16 difficult for you not take that into account. I think that --
17 I think it's likely that you would be consistent in your
18 approach and I don't know that I would have a basis for arguing
19 against that except to say that the real party-in-interest, the
20 necessary and indispensable party is Perpetual. As to whether
21 a decision would be in AFLAC, would effectively be binding on
22 Perpetual I think I have to leave that for another day. And
23 who knows, Perpetual might appear here.

24 THE COURT: Well, let me ask, is there anybody here
25 representing the interest of Perpetual? Is there any observer

1 in Court who has been sent to Court on behalf of Perpetual? Is
2 there any lawyer who has been retained to observe this
3 proceeding? Is there any business person who's been sent here
4 to observe this proceeding?

5 Apparently not, or they're choosing to be quiet.

6 Have you made any efforts, Mr. Schaffer, to encourage
7 Perpetual to participate actively in this case so as to get you
8 off the horns of this particular dilemma?

9 MR. SCHAFFER: Your Honor, I can say that English
10 counsel levels have expressed my concerns in direct language,
11 that we think it is very useful for them to be here; for them
12 to participate. We don't want to be here caught in the middle.
13 And my client, my co-counsel, have unquestionably told them we
14 think they should be here.

15 THE COURT: And what have they said as far as you
16 know?

17 MR. SCHAFFER: they understand our request.

18 THE COURT: Okay. Why don't you proceed with your
19 argument.

20 MR. SCHAFFER: Your Honor, I started out why are we
21 here? We want to get out of the middle in this fight. To
22 quote from LBSF's skeleton argument that it filed in England.
23 It would be wholly wrong for the English court needlessly to
24 place BNY in a position where it might become subject to
25 conflicting decisions and orders of the courts in England and

1 the U.S. That's one thing we agree on, it would be wholly
2 wrong. We agree the courts should coordinate. And we think
3 that letting the two cases proceed independently risk chaos.

4 What I'd like to address this morning, Your Honor,
5 briefly, what's the record, what are the issues before you and
6 not before you, and then get into how does the law apply on the
7 facts of this case? The record I think is pretty
8 straightforward. We have a complaint here, we have the English
9 action, we have a lot of transaction documents. We've got
10 judgments and orders. There are several declarations,
11 including a declaration from levels that authenticates English
12 documents, cites to relevant English case law.

13 Your Honor's aware, we have two cases filed. The one
14 in England filed on May 13 seeks a declaration -- Perpetual
15 seeks a declaration. First, that the assets held by BNY as
16 trustee must be distributed pursuant to noteholder priority.
17 And, second, they seek a declaration that Perpetual is not
18 obligated to indemnify BNY against the risk that this Court
19 might require distribution to LBSF. A week later we had this
20 case filed here where LBSF is seeking a declaration that BNY is
21 required to make payment pursuant to SWAP counterparty
22 priority. The intervened in England, of course, Perpetual is
23 not here but we have LBSF seeking exactly the opposite relief
24 with regard to distribution.

25 Your Honor, you've seen the English judgment, the

1 order. It holds that noteholder priority is effective as
2 between Perpetual and LBSF. And it's relevant, I think, in two
3 particular respects.

4 First, it confirms that we have a right to
5 indemnification as a condition to enforcement by Perpetual of
6 its interest in collateral. Without indemnification we have no
7 duty to act. And we have no duty to take any action that could
8 subject us to any liability. Again, Perpetual has refused to
9 provide indemnification.

10 Now, Lehman said that even without indemnification
11 we're an adequate representative. But under the judgment we
12 have no obligation, and English law controls there.

13 The English court deferred the question as to what
14 constitutes appropriate indemnification, but it never
15 questioned our right. Now, on this point, I think LBSF's sur
16 reply mischaracterizes the law. LBSF says the Court recognized
17 that we claim a right to indemnification, but reserve judgment
18 on the issue until after this Court rules on summary judgment
19 in this case.

20 Well, that's wrong for a couple of reasons. First,
21 the High Court recognized, not a claim, but a right to
22 indemnification. The only thing reserved is a determination of
23 what constitutes "appropriate indemnities." And there I look
24 at paragraphs 56 and 63.

25 And the chancellor is quite clear on this in response

1 to questions that were raised about indemnification during the
2 trial. If I may quote the chancellor. He says, "I did not
3 understand it to be an issue because it is quite clear from the
4 wording of the relevant clause that you cannot be made to do
5 anything without an indemnity. You have not been offered any
6 indemnity. Therefore, there can't be any question at the
7 moment of telling you to do anything. There was further
8 discussion, the chancellor repeated, it's quite clear from the
9 document and nobody has suggested otherwise, you do not have to
10 do anything without an indemnity.

11 THE COURT: Let me ask you something, Mr. Schaffer,
12 because you're obviously quite familiar with the proceedings in
13 the High Court.

14 Assuming for a moment, the judgment of the High Court,
15 and I recognize that it's on appeal.

16 MR. SCHAFFER: Yes.

17 THE COURT: Has agreed to do a right to
18 indemnification, but there's an open question as to the form
19 that that indemnity will take. Why are you not now subject to
20 whatever appeal risk may exist, able to appear and be heard
21 fully in this Court on behalf of Perpetual because you've been
22 granted a right to indemnity?

23 THE COURT: But, Your Honor, the English court says
24 you have a right, but we don't have the indemnification. If we
25 appear here we still don't have the indemnity, we still don't

1 have a duty. And we don't know that we'll ever get the
2 indemnification.

3 Now, the amount at issue here is, I think, ninety
4 million Australian dollars which at the time this litigation
5 started was about seventy million dollars U.S. It is
6 conceivable that a further hearing, the English court would
7 say, the form of indemnification should take the form of a
8 letter of credit for seventy million U.S., for ninety million
9 Australian dollars. Could that be adequate? It might be. But
10 we don't have that.

11 And so if this case were to go forward we're in a
12 position where we might say well, we've got a right to
13 indemnification, let's go do our best. But we could be second-
14 guessed.

15 THE COURT: Do you need indemnification in respect of
16 positions that you take in litigation? Or do you need
17 indemnification in respect of acting by virtue of authority
18 obtained in the litigation? In other words, if you simply sits
19 on the money that's there and don't act, what indemnity do you
20 need, what risk are you exposed to?

21 MR. SCHAFFER: If we never distribute the money, it's
22 hard to say there's a risk.

23 THE COURT: Correct. So the risk then is if you fail
24 to exercise fiduciary duties in respect of your beneficiary,
25 which would mean a risk in failing to articulate arguments

1 consistent with their economic objectives. That seems to me to
2 be a risk.

3 MR. SCHAFFER: Well, Your Honor, I will argue against
4 you on that one.

5 THE COURT: You can argue against me on anything you
6 like.

7 MR. SCHAFFER: Well, I'm going to pick on this one in
8 particular and say we don't have a fiduciary duty on this. The
9 documents are clear and the English court agrees. If we don't
10 have indemnification there's no duty. And the English case law
11 appended to the Lyon's affidavit says, "Where there's a dispute
12 between two claimants to a trust fund, the trustee's job is to
13 remain neutral," and that's the position we've taken in England
14 and that's the position we take here. We don't have a duty.
15 And in the absence of a duty we can't be an adequate
16 representative.

17 THE COURT: To what extent -- I'll withdraw that.
18 Just proceed.

19 MR. SCHAFFER: Your Honor, I was talking about the sur
20 reply saying it mischaracterized the position, also, of the
21 High Court with regard to the suggestion that it would wait
22 until after this Court rules on summary judgment. The High
23 Court never said anything about waiting for this Court to
24 decide summary judgment. To the contrary, the English court
25 rejected LBSF's request to stay the English litigation until

1 their could be a decision on the merits here. And the
2 chancellor also recognized in his judgment that we have a
3 pending motion to dismiss. The reason that we have the delay
4 until October in the High Court as set forth in paragraphs 61
5 and 63, is to give LBSF's foreign representative or this Court
6 time to determine what they may wish to do in the English
7 proceedings pursuant to the common law or the UNCITRAL Model
8 Law. And the Court was clearly anticipating that the 1505
9 motion since granted would be filed.

10 Even then what the court invited the foreign
11 representative of this Court to do was to make requests, "in
12 light of" the conclusion that noteholder priority is effective.
13 The judgment on leave to appeal also is clear, English courts
14 aren't waiting for a judgment on the summary judgment motion.
15 They simply want to have this Court have the benefit of a final
16 non-appealable order from the English court with regard to
17 English law and to make it possible for this Court to determine
18 what it would wish the English court to continue. And there I
19 point to paragraphs 8 and 9 of the judgment on leave to appeal.
20 So the High Court invited coordination, but it certainly did
21 not ask this Court to do anything specific and, certainly, did
22 not ask this Court to proceed to the merits of summary
23 judgment.

24 THE COURT: Wait one moment, Mr. Schaffer.
25 Coordination is meaningless unless the U.S. Bankruptcy Court is

1 given the space and the item to deal with U.S. Bankruptcy law
2 issues. Coordination makes sense, at least in theory. Let's
3 look at this from 30,000 feet. To the extent we have English
4 law governed contractual documents the English court will be
5 dealing with enforceability of those English law documents.

6 But to the extent that we have a U.S. Chapter 11
7 debtor that is asserting rights under the peculiarities of safe
8 harbor provisions of the U.S. Bankruptcy law, that are, I
9 think, in everybody's estimation unprecedented. And as to
10 which there appears to be little governing authority, I would
11 think that the U.K. High Court would consider it rationale,
12 although I'm not looking into their brains on this, for the
13 U.S. Court to deal with U.S. law issues and for the U.K. court
14 to deal with U.K. law issues, and for us to be coordinating so
15 we come out with the most rationale result possible. That to
16 me would be sensible. Why isn't that sensible?

17 MR. SCHAFFER: It is sensible if the Courts have
18 reached an agreement on how things should proceed. As I
19 understand Your Honor, you're saying the English court is well
20 suited to decide English law, and you are well suited to decide
21 issues under the Bankruptcy Code. It's hard to argue with
22 that.

23 THE COURT: That seems right to me so far.

24 MR. SCHAFFER: It's hard to argue with that. Now,
25 would it make sense for the English court to say I'll defer to

1 you with regard to how bankruptcy law applies as an overlay
2 upon the English law that I have decided. That makes good
3 sense too. And were I on the phone with you and the Lord
4 Chancellor, I think that that would make eminent sense. But
5 I'm here not knowing how you and the chancellor might
6 communicate, if at all. How you might coordinate. And on the
7 facts and law before us. I'm encouraging coordination. I've
8 been consistent on that. And on this, I think LBSF is also
9 consistent. It's good not to have conflicting judgments. It
10 may be that through the vehicle of the 1505 order and the model
11 law that that's exactly where the two courts come out. It may
12 be that the English court says I appreciate that there's been a
13 decision on the merits in the AFLAC case, and I'm going to
14 follow that. Those would be sound decisions, those would be
15 rationale decisions. But if we don't have that, if the two
16 courts just proceed on parallel paths, completely
17 independently, we've got a problem. And unless the courts are
18 going to find some accommodation, I come back to the rules, to
19 the doctrines that I've addressed and say dismissal is
20 appropriate.

21 Your Honor, I said that I wanted to talk about the
22 issues before the Court. I think you understand them. What I
23 would like to focus on perhaps more is what are the issues not
24 before the Court? We are not here today on the merits of
25 LBSF's claim. We're not here to oppose them on the merits.

1 We're here because if they were to prevail on the merits we can
2 have a conflicting order. There's no question they're saying
3 Judge, you have here an opportunity to set a precedent
4 applicable to hundreds of transactions, to thousands of
5 holders. But you have before you just the one case, involving
6 one absent holder, and two particular notes. I think the sur
7 reply captures the essence of the dispute. They're saying why
8 should the debtor lose the right to get a declaratory judgment
9 on important issues of bankruptcy law just because some
10 noteholder refuses to submit to jurisdiction here? Well,
11 they're looking to leapfrog the rules and go to the merits.
12 But the merits are not before you unless the rules are
13 satisfied, they're not guidelines. The Supreme Court says that
14 the rules have the force of a federal statute, there's no
15 carve-out based on amounts at issue. Or a desire, however well
16 meaning, to get a substantive decision.

17 And they can't disagree, Your Honor, because the
18 reason they didn't sue Perpetual is based on the same Rule
19 12(b); that they're worried there may not be jurisdiction, they
20 couldn't get service. Well, 12(b)(7) provides that you have to
21 have an indispensable party absent which you need to dismiss.
22 So the questions not should Perpetual be rewarded for not
23 showing up, it's whether the debtor can satisfy the
24 requirements of the rules in the face of unrefuted evidence
25 that we have not received any indemnification as required under

1 English law. The answer's not to ignore the rules, is to try
2 to work within them, to have coordination to proceed pursuant
3 to the model law to do the things they are now starting to do.

4 THE COURT: But, Mr. Schaffer, they argue that
5 Perpetual is not a necessary indispensable party because you're
6 before the Court and you're fully equipped, should you elect to
7 do so, to argue all of the purely legal issues that need to be
8 addressed in this litigation, and they'll be the very same
9 legal issues that you've acknowledged you will be presenting in
10 the context of the AFLAC litigation at more or less the same
11 time. So how's that prejudicial to your client?

12 MR. SCHAFFER: Your Honor, if we are forced to go
13 forward, put aside all the time and expense of being involved
14 in the litigation, we are at risk of being second-guessed, we
15 are at risk of having Perpetual to proceed to try and execute
16 in London. Perpetual can come in here -- come in here, I wish.
17 Forgive me, Your Honor.

18 Perpetual could take the position that we didn't do a
19 very good job when we were litigating in New York, and,
20 therefore, that vitiates our right to indemnification.

21 THE COURT: They could take that very same position if
22 the motion to dismiss is granted and make the arguments that
23 you're going to make in the context of the AFLAC case, you lose
24 because then law which is applicable in the U.K., which
25 demonstrates that Perpetual's rights have been adversely

1 affected and they argue you didn't do a good job.

2 MR. SCHAFFER: Your Honor, in that instance it's not a
3 situation in which we would have been deemed by the Court to
4 have been acting on their behalf. I hope that we do a good job
5 in the other litigation.

6 THE COURT: I expect based on this performance that
7 you will.

8 MR. SCHAFFER: I thank you for that, Your Honor. But
9 having said that still doesn't give us a duty, we don't want to
10 be second-guessed. But beyond that, we don't want to have a
11 situation where they say we don't care what you did in New
12 York, we have a judgment in London and we have jurisdiction
13 over you in London, now pay us the money.

14 Now, admittedly then, we can say show us the
15 indemnification. But we will be at risk that there's a
16 judgment here for which they have offered no indemnification.
17 We have an opportunity applying the rules to get the trustee
18 out of the middle. I appreciate that we have some issues here
19 that are of great significance in this bankruptcy case, they
20 truly are. But that's not a reason to leapfrog the rules,
21 particularly, since the Court has the ability to set a
22 precedent in some other case that is not only before you,
23 there's been a summary judgment motion filed. It's teed up
24 ready to go and it doesn't present the sticky questions of Rule
25 19, the sticky questions of due process.

1 I think that it makes a lot of sense to say we have
2 AFLAC, it is an opportunity. The Court concedes upon that.
3 But it's all the more opportunity not to go down what is a very
4 uncertain path in having this case and the Perpetual case in
5 London going down parallel cases without any -- without any
6 harmonization.

7 THE COURT: Well, let's touch on that point for a
8 moment. At various times during your presentation you've
9 talked about coordination with the High Court as it relates to
10 the Perpetual case, in particular, because that's the only one
11 we're arguing right now.

12 MR. SCHAFFER: Yes.

13 THE COURT: Do you have a proposal for coordination?
14 If you were designing the coordination, what would it consist
15 of?

16 MR. SCHAFFER: Your Honor, I thought about a lot of
17 questions you might ask me, that wasn't on the list.

18 THE COURT: Okay. Well then I succeeded.

19 MR. SCHAFFER: But I think what would make a lot of
20 sense, consistent with the colloquy we had a few minutes ago,
21 the English court should decide what is English law, what do
22 the documents mean, what is English case law with regard to the
23 priority, with regard to indemnification? This Court should
24 use that as a basis consistent with Supreme Court decisions
25 like Butner, saying that's applicable non-bankruptcy law, let's

1 now figure out what bankruptcy law means. I think it would
2 make sense for you to defer to the English court on English
3 law. And I think it would make sense for the English court to
4 issue an order that says and I'm going to defer to the
5 bankruptcy court or to whatever appellate proceedings might
6 ultimately transpire from here with regard to the U.S.
7 Bankruptcy Code. I think that makes a lot of sense.

8 My concern is there may not be an agreement. And if
9 there's not that doesn't let me out of my dilemma. It doesn't
10 let this Court out of its dilemma. And that's why we've got a
11 practical answer that I think might move along the lines I've
12 just suggested. But absent that we have a legal answer. And a
13 legal answer absent a practical decision is to say let's apply
14 the rules, let's look to comity, let's look to everything to be
15 wise arguing, which I think is a basis for dismissing the case
16 if we can't have coordination.

17 THE COURT: So do I understand you to say that your
18 motion to dismiss is in some respects conditional? That is,
19 you would be content to be a party to this litigation and not
20 to press your motion to dismiss to conclusion if there were in
21 place a workable protocol that coordinated the two proceedings?

22 MR. SCHAFFER: Your Honor, I don't think I've gone
23 that far. But our motions --

24 THE COURT: But I did ask you that question.

25 MR. SCHAFFER: You did. Your Honor, we've asked for

1 dismissal, but alternatively, we've asked for abstention or a
2 stay. And so it is within the scope of our motion to say stay
3 things pending some further harmonization, pending some
4 rationalization between the two courts. If we had the English
5 court telling us BNY, go forward and litigate and we've got
6 things covered here, you will not be subjected to an
7 inconsistent decision, I think that goes a long way toward
8 helping us out of our dilemma. We still have the question of
9 indemnification. I don't want to avoid that.

10 To the contrary, we've got the chancellor saying you
11 are entitled to appropriate indemnities. And so when I say we
12 could work things out that way, I am assuming that the Court,
13 consistent with its judgment, would say and, of course, as part
14 of this, BNY, you get appropriate indemnities and the Court
15 would tell us what that is. The appropriate indemnities,
16 certainly to mind, mean something that enables us to be held
17 harmless except in our capacity as the holder of the funds that
18 ultimately are distributed to one side or the other. And I
19 hope that's responsive to the Court's question.

20 THE COURT: I'm not going to press for a further
21 answer, so let's deem it responsive.

22 MR. SCHAFFER: Your Honor, let me drill down into Rule
23 19. I won't cite you to any of the treatises that are in the
24 briefs. I think all of that is sufficiently covered. You
25 understand there's a two-step inquiry under Rule 19. First, is

1 the missing party necessary? Second, if it's necessary the
2 joinder's not feasible if the Court determines whether in
3 equity and good conscience the case can proceed without the
4 necessary party. One of the cases that we cited in our reply
5 was the Supreme Court decision in Pimentel. And under the
6 Pimentel analysis, this is a textbook example of a case where
7 Rule 19 requires dismissal.

8 Let's start with necessary party under 19(a)(1). A
9 party's necessary in any of three circumstances. Let me leave
10 for the third the whole idea we might be an adequate
11 representative. Because any of the three would be sufficient
12 for our purposes.

13 First, under 19(a)(1)(A), if the Court cannot accord
14 complete relief among the existing parties. Well, we don't
15 have a stake in the priority issue. The competing interest
16 here are Perpetual and LBSF, and we don't think there's any
17 complete relief possible as between them in this case. That's
18 one alternative.

19 Second, under 19(a)(1)(B)(2), a party is necessary if
20 the claims and interest relating to the subject of the action
21 and are so situated that the disposition of the action in the
22 person's absence may subject any existing party, that's BNY, to
23 a substantial risk of incurring double, multiple, or otherwise
24 inconsistent obligations by reason of the claimed interest.
25 Well, obviously, we have got that risk here. Perpetual says we

1 want a distribution in London pursuant to noteholder priority,
2 LBSF says no, SWAP counterparty governs distribute the same
3 funds to us. We have got a risk that if Perpetual's not here
4 and not bound we are subject to double or inconsistent
5 obligations. Indeed, LBSF's goal here is to create a conflict.
6 They want you to reach the opposite answer of what the High
7 Court did. It's precisely the risk against which the rule
8 protects.

9 Then the last necessary party prong, 19(a)(1)(B)(1), a
10 party is necessary if disposition in a person's absence may, as
11 a practical matter, impede or impair the person's ability to
12 protect that interest. Well, Perpetual's not here, obviously
13 can't protect its interest. We've talked about is BNY an
14 adequate representative. We don't have a beneficial interest
15 other than to collect our fees and expense which, thankfully,
16 everyone agrees come off the top. We are not, as has been
17 suggested by LBSF, joined at the hip. Far from having an
18 identity of interest, we were sued. And the reason we were
19 sued is we're taking LBSF seriously. We're saying they might
20 win. And that's why we need indemnification. The decision to
21 sue us rather than indemnify us shows that we and Perpetual are
22 antagonistic.

23 Now, we talked before does the English court say that
24 we have the right to indemnification? Again, it's not a right,
25 it's satisfactory indemnification that we're entitled to. We

1 don't have that. Repeating that we could be an adequate
2 representative doesn't make us one. We don't have a duty.

3 We've talked about the AFLAC case. What that case
4 recognizes is that a noteholder really is necessary otherwise
5 why sue AFLAC? Why not just come after us again? LBSF is
6 recognized that in a priority dispute you should have the
7 noteholder there. You need to bind the noteholder.

8 And what that case also shows is the importance of
9 indemnification. We're there in AFLAC because we have it. We
10 really are neutral. Under the documents, under English case
11 law we have an obligation to remain neutral. So we think that
12 under all three alternative prongs of 19(a) Perpetual is
13 necessary, not just the adequate representative issue under all
14 three.

15 So we then go onto 19(b), is Perpetual an
16 indispensable party? Well, 19(b) sets forth several factors
17 that I think warrant dismissal here.

18 The first consideration is the extent to which the
19 judgment might prejudice the missing person or the existing
20 parties? Obviously, a decision in Perpetual's absence could
21 prejudice Perpetual. Look again to what the Supreme Court said
22 in Pimentel. "Conflicting claims by beneficiaries to a common
23 trust present a textbook example of a case where one party may
24 be severely prejudiced by a decision in his absence." We could
25 be greatly prejudiced. This is squarely within the Pimentel

1 decision, where the case was dismissed under Rule 19.

2 Second consideration under 19(b) is the extent to
3 which prejudice could be lessened or avoided. I don't think it
4 could happen unless somehow the courts found a way to
5 coordinate, and we've talked about that.

6 Third consideration is whether a judgment rendered in
7 a person's absence, Perpetual's absence, could be adequate?
8 Now, as the Pimentel court explains what this refers to is the
9 social interest in efficient administration of justice and
10 avoidance of multiple litigation. A judgment entered in
11 Perpetual's absence here would certainly undermine the public
12 state in settling disputes in their entirety. So we have the
13 risks of conflicting judgments, multiple litigation,
14 inefficiency. There, again, it weighs heavily in favor of
15 dismissal.

16 The fourth and the last consideration I'll address is
17 whether the plaintiff would have an adequate remedy if the
18 action's dismissed. The English court is competent to apply
19 U.S. law. LBSF said so. It's in the judgment. LBSF says as
20 set forth in paragraph 63 of the judgment, "You can apply
21 bankruptcy law here Lord Chancellor." They certainly have the
22 ability to go to England, they have an adequate remedy, they
23 have all of the parties. And, indeed, they're actively
24 pursuing an appeal. And, presumably, they will actively
25 follow-up on this Court's 1505 order.

1 Your Honor, I referred you to the decision of the
2 Second Circuit in Rappaport. I think that's a close parallel
3 to what we have here. There a bank was sued in the U.S. with
4 regard to who owned an account where competing claimants were
5 in Mexico. The Mexico claimants were not subject to personal
6 jurisdiction in this Court, all the parties in the Mexican
7 inaction. In that case, the Court of Appeals affirmed, said
8 that where the defendant bank faces a substantial risk of
9 inconsistent obligations if there are conflicting judgments,
10 dismissal is appropriate under Rule 19.

11 That's our case. We've met our burden of showing
12 under Rule 19 the nature of our interest, the nature of the
13 interest possessed by the absent party. And we've shown that
14 the protection of those interest are impaired unless the case
15 is dismissed.

16 Your Honor, I'm happy to put aside Rule 19 and move on
17 to forum nonconvenience, which I think I can treat a little bit
18 more quickly appreciating the Court has been very good in
19 giving us adequate time to fully go through these issues.

20 Your Honor, forum nonconvenience also supports
21 dismissal. Considerations that apply here are the extent to
22 which the plaintiff's choice of forum is entitled to deference,
23 the existence of adequate alternatives, the balance of private
24 and public interests.

25 Your Honor, you understand that the plaintiff's choice

1 of forum as a general rule gets a lot of deference. But that's
2 not true where there's forum shopping. Here we have an
3 interesting situation where Perpetual and LBSF are both forum
4 shopping. Perpetual sued first, while LBSF joined they also
5 have sued here to try and force Perpetual, to try and force the
6 issues into this Court. And they're each happy to proceed
7 without the other in the first instance.

8 Perpetual, itself a trustee, has no desire to submit
9 to jurisdiction in the U.S. it would seem. And LBSF, with all
10 deference to my good friends representing LBSF, they're not
11 worried about our lack of indemnification, and they'd be happy
12 to litigate against an empty chair.

13 So we look then and we say is England the more
14 appropriate forum? Well, the bankruptcy case is here, but the
15 transactions were all structured there. English law governs
16 and the English court, alone, has jurisdiction over all the
17 competing claimants. There's a judgment that is now binding on
18 everyone including LBSF. In our reply brief we discuss res
19 judicata, collateral estoppel. We think with regard to those
20 decisions -- those issues of English law that the judgment is
21 binding.

22 Now, one thing that LBSF says in its sur reply is that
23 we all agree the only issues now before this Court are issues
24 of bankruptcy law. Your Honor, I want to quickly respond to
25 that. We have never addressed the merits, let alone agreed on

1 the issues presented. But where LBSF has willingly
2 participated in the English court and is seeking further relief
3 under the Bankruptcy Code, we think that forum nonconvenience
4 warrants dismissal because that's the only court that right now
5 has all the parties and can decide all the issues.

6 Let me move on to comity. Bankruptcy does not negate
7 considerations of comity. To the contrary, Section 1334(c)
8 expressly provides for abstention in the interest of justice or
9 comity. Section 1505 of the Bankruptcy Code is founded on the
10 Doctrine of Comity. Now, LBSF does not question the fairness
11 or competence of the English court, or the relevance of the
12 English jurisdiction where it is still seeking further relief.
13 We think, however, that LBSF misreads the English court with
14 regard to its view of its relationship with this Court.
15 They're wrong when they say the English court recognizes that
16 only this court has jurisdiction over bankruptcy issues.

17 In paragraph 61 the English court invited LBSF to
18 raise bankruptcy issues in England under the Common Law or the
19 UNCITRAL Model Law. That's why they are proceeding pursuant to
20 this Court's 1505 order.

21 And in paragraph 63 of the judgment the English court
22 notes "that LBSF submitted that under the model law that the
23 model law clerk could entitle this court, the English court, to
24 apply provisions of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code."

25 The question's not which court is more familiar with

1 the Bankruptcy Code or more familiar with non-bankruptcy law.
2 Your Honor, I think both courts could fairly consider these
3 issues. The question is which court is in the better
4 position -- the best position to hear from all parties. To
5 adjudicate the issues and to reach a final decision binding on
6 all.

7 We think comity also warrants communication between
8 the courts to avoid inconsistent judgments. We were concerned
9 that before the sur reply LBSF didn't seem to take note that
10 the issues that it had forcefully advocated in seeking an
11 international protocol in it's 1505 motion. But, again, we're
12 now in agreement on that.

13 Moving on then to the last of our substantive
14 arguments. And that is the stay. We ask that if this action
15 is not dismissed that it be stayed pending resolution of the
16 English action. Any decision's going to require non-bankruptcy
17 law to be decided. It's going to be res judicata or collateral
18 estoppel. We've got an appeal. It can only be helpful to this
19 Court to know what the English law is with a final non-
20 appealable order. LBSF, it worries about conflicting
21 decisions. And it looks that AFLAC presumably is what might be
22 a conflict. It says, in this case, don't miss an opportunity
23 to provide substantive import on important issues. Your Honor,
24 I think we agree AFLAC is an opportunity. And if the goal is a
25 precedential ruling the Court can go to that case teed-up for

1 summary judgment without the risk of conflicting orders,
2 without the due process problems where they seek to litigate in
3 the absence of a noteholder.

4 Let me try and wrap up at this point. To go back to
5 where I started. In England LBSF wrote it would be wholly
6 wrong needlessly to place BNY in a position where it might be
7 subject to conflicting positions and orders. With this in
8 mind, this Court can't skip to the ultimate merits. The rules,
9 the other doctrines we've referenced exist precisely to deal
10 with the kind of problems you have here.

11 What can you do about this? We've talked about this.
12 Certainly dismissal takes care of the problem in this case.
13 Alternatives, you can coordinate with the English court. You
14 might have a consensus that that court would defer to you on
15 the merits. And assuming that we have a judgment that covers
16 us on indemnification from the English court I think that's
17 perfectly workable. But a failure to address conflicting
18 orders it seems to me is not an option.

19 Your Honor, in our reply memorandum we quoted from
20 another case in this Court, petition of Briarley. And I'd like
21 to recite to that. "Working in all transnational bankruptcies
22 is the potential for chaos if the courts involved ignore the
23 importance of comity. Yet it is critical to harmonize the
24 proceedings into different courts less decrees at war with one
25 another result." It's critical to avoid warring decrees here.

1 And, Your Honor, we think on the record, on the facts, on the
2 law, this complaint should be dismissed. Alternatively, we
3 would ask that you abstain in the interest of comity or stay
4 until it's clear that BNY will not be at risk of conflicting
5 judgments. Thank you very much, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Thank you.

7 MR. MILLER: Your Honor, Ralph Miller again, here for
8 LBSF.

9 I'd like to start with a practical question that the
10 Court asked which LBSF has given some thought to. And that is
11 what might be an orderly way to deal with the coordination
12 issue. And I'd like to talk a little bit about the necessary
13 party issue and the separate and distinct indispensable party
14 issue.

15 THE COURT: Okay.

16 MR. MILLER: First, with regard to coordination, there
17 are as the Court knows, interim rules that were opposed for
18 coordination which have actually been adopted by this district.
19 And they make a distinction between scheduling coordination,
20 which, for example, does not require any sort of advance
21 notice. And coordination that amounts to a request for
22 recognition or assistance on some kind of action. We think
23 there are two separate phases of coordination that would be
24 appropriate in this case. And, Your Honor, referred to the
25 need for this Court to have space and time to deal with these

1 issues.

2 We suggest that the English court, the Vice Chancellor
3 has recognized that, noting that the court will not be back in
4 session to consider this until October. And we would suggest
5 that after the scheduling conference that we're going to have
6 later today and whatever scheduling decisions this Court might
7 make, it would be perfectly appropriate for this Court to have
8 a scheduling communication with the London court indicating
9 what sort of space and time this Court anticipates it might
10 require to have guidance on these issues. And then to make a
11 further decision on whether this Court wishes or does not wish
12 to seek assistance with coordination in light of the ruling it
13 makes. Although, LBSF believes that it's going to be a ruling
14 which hopefully would require some coordination. There are
15 certainly outcomes here in which no coordination is necessary.
16 So we don't think that that decision can be made now as to what
17 the coordination is going to be.

18 At that same time, these issues are potential conflict
19 that were raised by Mr. Schaffer, could be address. And I'll
20 talk about that in a moment. So we suggest that the first
21 coordination request should be once the Court decides what he
22 schedule is to let the Vice Chancellor know that this Court
23 will have a hearing say, in October or November, or whenever
24 it's going to have it. And anticipate that after that the
25 Court will make a further decision. In which, by the way, it

1 may choose to give some advance notice of what it's going to
2 do, because there is -- although we don't think the advance
3 notice provisions directly apply, that would be an option the
4 Court would have. You can decide whether to do that or not.
5 But in any event, if at a later stage the Court would be in a
6 position to tell the London court whether it does or does not
7 need a substantive sort of court action. But it needs the
8 space and time. And we think that is the first coordination
9 requirement. And we think that that is something that we have
10 confidence the London court will be amenable to.

11 During the same time the appeal will be continuing, I
12 don't know how fast that guidance might come back. But it is
13 possible that that guidance may or may not be useful in this
14 Court's deliberation. I don't think that you should wait for
15 the appeal in London.

16 I do want to talk about this issue of indemnity for
17 just a moment and then go to Rule 19. The position of Mr.
18 Schaffer is, and we think it is correct, that the London court
19 has determined that indemnity is required. It just has not
20 determined what the form that indemnity is going to take.

21 One of the cases, for example, cited in their brief at
22 page 5, the House of Wilkinson v. Neary case. Notes that the
23 trustee entitled to indemnity had a lien on the trust assets to
24 secure that indemnity. And it also is possible that the court
25 can issue direction on how a trustee is to act, that's

1 mentioned in that case.

2 So while there are some details to be worked out the
3 basic principle here we think is the principle of equity that
4 the court presumes has done that which should be done. And in
5 this case, indemnity should be granted. The English court has
6 said it's going to be granted. And the fact that the details
7 are not known is certainly no reason to dismiss this case. It
8 might be a reason to take -- to take into consideration if and
9 when a potential conflict down the road comes to arise, which
10 is -- there's a lot of ways that that might not happen.

11 Turning to Rule 19, Your Honor, there's actually a
12 case very much in point. And if I might approach with some
13 highlighted copies?

14 THE COURT: You may approach.

15 (Pause)

16 MR. MILLER: The facts are actually surprisingly
17 similar here because, Your Honor, the parent corporation of
18 BNY, Bank of New York, which was a trustee, and it was arguing
19 in a case with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation that
20 the noteholders in the trust it was dealing with were necessary
21 parties. The court in that case found that applying Rule 19
22 analysis, and this is Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation v.
23 Bank of New York, 479 F.Supp.2d 1, which was affirmed by the DC
24 Circuit 508 F.3d 1 in 2008, so it's a recent case very much in
25 point and very similar facts. And as we noted in our brief,

1 the court said on it's numbered page 10 of this decision under
2 Rule 19(a)(2)(1), "It is well settled in adjudicating an absent
3 person's claim cannot impair or impede the person's ability to
4 protect its interest if he is adequately represented by one of
5 the existing parties." Now, in that case Bank of New York, the
6 parent, said well, we have an antagonism here because we filed
7 an interpleader and we're not in agreement with the
8 noteholders. And the court said that was not the kind of
9 antagonism that was required. The court noted that in another
10 case BNY had represented the noteholders -- those same
11 noteholders in their pending appeal before the DC Circuit.
12 there was indemnity in that case.

13 The court found that there was not a potential for
14 double, multiple or otherwise inconsistent obligations.
15 Because BNY did represent the noteholders as the indemnity
16 trustee, this is over on page 11 under the 19(a)(2)(ii)
17 analysis. And they would -- in effect, they would be bound by
18 the Court's decision, which we believe is the result it would
19 incur here. Because if you go over to page 13, the Court
20 concluded because venue in the district is proper, the first
21 file rule may not be applied. And the noteholders are not
22 necessary party, so the defendant's motion to dismiss was
23 denied.

24 We believe that marches through the elements of
25 necessary party, and it is absolutely the correct analysis in

1 this case.

2 THE COURT: Let me break in, Mr. Miller, and ask you a
3 question that's been borrowing me, though.

4 MR. MILLER: Yes, Your Honor.

5 THE COURT: One of the arguments made by BNY in this
6 case is that if you look at what LBSF did in the AFLAC
7 litigation you see that there is either an express or a tacit
8 acknowledgement that noteholders are, if not necessary parties,
9 certainly entirely appropriate parties to be named in
10 litigation involving the resolution of these issues. How do
11 you reconcile the fact that the noteholder is a party in the
12 AFLAC case, and that you named them as a party in that case?
13 And that don't add Perpetual in this case when BNY is, in
14 effect, a totally different position in those two litigations
15 because hearing Perpetual there on their own and lacking
16 direction or indemnity from their noteholder, and in AFLAC
17 their taking active positions with indemnity presumably, how do
18 I reconcile that?

19 MR. MILLER: Well, Your Honor, I think you can
20 reconcile that easily on a couple of grounds. First of all,
21 the predicate of that case was that AFLAC was in discussion
22 with LBSF and it threatened to initiate suit and is a U.S.
23 entity. So the feeling was that it was important to go ahead
24 and activate a litigation to get a declaratory judgment. And
25 rather than have another possibility of the case in London and

1 a case here, LBSF concluded that the orderly proceeding was to
2 go ahead and initiate a declaratory judgment with the parties
3 in this case, and with the party it was dealing with. Because
4 LBSF had come forward.

5 So far as we know there's been no communication
6 between Perpetual and LBSF before Perpetual filed its suit in
7 London. And it's notable that Perpetual's suit only BNY. It
8 obviously felt that was sufficient. LBSF did intervene. LBSF
9 has not asked that court to decide the bankruptcy issues that
10 are before this Court. There were some Insolvency Act issues
11 under English law that are somewhat analogous that were
12 submitted and were considered under English law.

13 But the difference is, first of all, that there was a
14 direct communication, a threat of litigation, and a response to
15 that. And the other answer, Your Honor, is that there was no
16 jurisdictional issues.

17 I want to come back to jurisdictional issue because
18 Mr. Schaffer keeps saying that there is, in effect, a test of
19 admission, there's no jurisdiction. We don't believe they're a
20 necessary party and we certainly don't think they're going to
21 prove to be an indispensable party if they were a necessary
22 party. But we're not at all certain that Perpetual could not
23 be subjected to jurisdiction if that's what the Court concluded
24 he wanted to have done. That becomes a scheduling issue and
25 I'll deal with that in a moment.

1 One of the things I might do if I might put up the
2 chart, Your Honor, that you've seen before.

3 (Pause)

4 MR. MILLER: We do have small copies of this. This is
5 a chart that was used before the court in an argument which Mr.
6 Schaffer was present for in the long motion to intervene in
7 this case, in the earlier intervention motion, so it's been
8 used in this case. And it simply illustrates the relationship
9 of these parties.

10 And one of the things that I think the Court
11 recognizes is there's no contractual relationship between LBSF
12 as the SWAP counterparty and Perpetual as a noteholder. In
13 many transactions, Your Honor, there are many noteholders. And
14 in many transactions those noteholders -- some of them cannot
15 be found and cannot be reached. As a general principle LBSF
16 does not believe that noteholders should be parties to these
17 kinds of proceedings. Otherwise, for one thing, it become
18 completely unworkable. But it was not contemplated by these
19 transactions that all the noteholders had to be drawn in.

20 THE COURT: Thank you.

21 (Pause)

22 THE COURT: These are copies of the same demonstrative
23 that's up on the board?

24 MR. MILLER: Yes, Your Honor. I'm simply handing the
25 Court copies of a demonstrative which is up on the board.

1 There's a two-step analysis under Rule 19. And as we
2 believe the FDIC case against Bank of New York illustrates
3 under the elements of Rule 19 and as our brief set out, we
4 think that Perpetual is not a necessary party. We believe that
5 BNY is an adequate representative. We also suggest, as I did
6 at the beginning, that the presence of BNY and AFLAC in a case
7 with virtually identical issues is something that this Court
8 can consider under the broad discretionary issues of Rule 19.

9 There's going to be a very adequate representative
10 here in the form of AFLAC and Skadden Arps, its counsel making
11 these arguments. And BNY has said that they are not conflicted
12 in that case. So those arguments are going to be presented and
13 that's going to provide adequate protection, we believe, for
14 the rights of Perpetual, for the arguments on that side of
15 these bankruptcy and statutory issues. And we think that
16 that's part of the equity in good conscious analysis when you
17 reach the indispensable party part of the analysis.

18 Even if Perpetual were a necessary party, whether
19 dismissal is appropriate or not requires a consideration of
20 additional factors. And I might point out that in the equity
21 in good conscious category BNY could have taken a number of
22 steps that it didn't take that could have brought this issue
23 more clearly before this Court

24 One we encouraged BNY to consider was an interpleader.
25 That was something that was done, as the Court knows, in

1 Ballyrock case by the trustee. And that has allowed those
2 parties to gather around the race that existed.

3 If the trustee were concerned it could, as it did in
4 the FDIC case, interplead into this court and that would have
5 resolved any issue. It could have interpleaded in the London
6 court and that might have affected the issues as well, Your
7 Honor, but it chose not to do that.

8 BNY also could have tried to bring Perpetual in
9 itself. It actually, in its motion to dismiss, suggested that
10 the Court order jurisdictional discovery to be taken by LBSF
11 which seemed strange. If it wanted jurisdictional discovery
12 BNY could take jurisdictional discovery. So it has, sort of,
13 taken a position of sitting on its hands and saying we don't
14 have an indemnity and we're certainly not going to do anything
15 without an indemnity. And we don't have this party here and
16 we're not going to do anything to bring that party in so the
17 case should be dismissed.

18 And while we understand that position from their self
19 interest, as a matter of equity in good conscious we don't
20 think that dismissal could possibly be the appropriate remedy
21 that would arise here. We think, at most, the second step
22 would be to say the parties can proceed and see if they can
23 bring Perpetual in.

24 Now the problem with bring Perpetual in, in addition
25 to the fact that we don't think it's required under the law and

1 we think it would delay the entire process, is that it would
2 impact the scheduling and the coordination in London. And that
3 is, again, an issue of coordination with the London court. We
4 don't know whether the London court would go through the time
5 necessary for that or not. It's true that if BNY has asked
6 Perpetual to come in, presumably they have not wanted to do so,
7 if they changed their mind and came in Perpetual would have the
8 ability to speed this whole process. Perpetual could come in
9 and then it could facilitate a resolution here but it has
10 chosen not to do that.

11 So Perpetual is taking the position that it's in a big
12 hurry in London. It wants expedited adjudication. It's done
13 nothing to allow that case to slow down and to suppose the
14 stay. It has opposed the delays that were sought by LBSF to
15 let this Court act. And yet it has not done anything to
16 facilitate the resolution of this case by either coming in to
17 participate or trying to authorize BNY to participate by giving
18 it in the indemnity.

19 I'd also point out, Your Honor, that as a practical
20 matter if the indemnity is confirmed by the English court, and
21 this is really the point that's made in the FDIC case, if a
22 judgment is rendered against BNY and BNY has an indemnity then
23 if BNY does have to pay the money over it has the indemnity to
24 get that money back if it had paid it twice. In other words
25 there's no real possibility that BNY is going to have to pay

1 this money twice. And I think it's also safe to assume it's
2 not going to release the money until it's certain that it's not
3 going to have to pay it twice.

4 Finally, in terms of this, sort of, hypothetical
5 conflict, I cannot imagine any possibility where the vice
6 chancellor and this Court would both issue contempt citations
7 or directions to BNY if their judgments were in conflict.
8 That's precisely what this coordination is for. It's too early
9 to decide how that's going to happen. But the fight is about
10 the box in the lower left corner here, these notes issued by
11 Australia, New Zealand Bank or Royal Bank of Scotland. The
12 question is which of two parties will get those notes and BNY
13 has those notes in its control and its possession and they're
14 only going to go out once. And they're going to go out after
15 the issues are sorted out as to which court has authority to
16 direct the payment of those notes. We're not there yet because
17 the final judgment has not been appealed in London and because
18 this Court has not reached the merits.

19 And I might stress, we're not trying to jump ahead to
20 the merits. It is critical, Your Honor, that in the
21 indispensable party analysis the most important question for
22 determination, as the briefs made clear, is whether there is an
23 adequate alternative for it. And in this case, Your Honor, the
24 English court has not ever suggested that it is an adequate
25 forum for these statutory bankruptcy issues. And there's a

1 case law in English law as well as case law cited in our brief
2 in the United States that recognizes that United States
3 Bankruptcy Courts are by far the most appropriate court for any
4 sort of resolution of bankruptcy issues. And there is an
5 English court case that it cited it's in the briefing by BNY
6 which has similar recognition of the importance of cooperation
7 between English courts and U.S. bankruptcy courts. And this is
8 the Bunk Indosuez S.A. vs. Pharamet Resources, Inc. (ph.) case
9 from the chancery division where the Court notes that the Court
10 would do its utmost to cooperate with the U.S. bankruptcy court
11 and avoid any action that might disturb the orderly
12 administration of Inc. in Texas.

13 The English courts have recognized that there should
14 be a unitary bankruptcy proceeding, generally speaking in
15 world-wide bankruptcies. And this Court has control over these
16 assets and the disposition of the assets of LBSF in which it
17 has security interests are something that can only be resolved,
18 we believe, fairly and effectively in this court.

19 So the simple solution, we believe, is to conclude
20 that Perpetual is not a necessary party. In the alternative,
21 it's certainly not a necessary and indispensable party. And
22 coordination, which we're going to discuss, I think, this
23 afternoon, is quite practical between the AFLAC matter and this
24 matter so that the briefing will be before the Court one time.

25 The debtor does not believe, by the way, that

1 coordination is always necessary just because the same legal
2 issue is going to come up in several cases. But because, as
3 the Court's noted, this is a case of the first impression on
4 some of these issues and the cases are moving together and we
5 have some commonality of parties with BNY and LBSF in both
6 cases. It may make sense to coordinate that and I think the
7 Court has expressed some interest in reading these briefs only
8 once and hearing arguments, maybe, that come together at one
9 time on some of these issues.

10 And we are, by the way, very cognizant of the
11 tremendous number of cases that this case has before it the
12 issues are weighty and difficult, there's a lot of paper and
13 we, the debtor, wants to make certain that the Court has
14 adequate space and time, as it referred to, to consider these
15 matters. We'll take that up in the scheduling conference but
16 to summarize, our belief is that the motion to dismiss should
17 be denied. That coordination should be discussed in the next
18 session that we're going to have and that BNY should be given
19 an opportunity to file a summary judgment if it wants to. It
20 should be given adequate time to respond to the summary
21 judgment that's already on file in this case. If it wishes, to
22 adopt by reference the arguments that are made by AFLAC, is
23 certainly can do that as courts of course recognize adoption by
24 reference even between different cases, if necessary.

25 And we suggest that we then develop a coordinated

1 briefing schedule, which we think probably takes us into
2 October and November as we will discuss, but not far beyond the
3 schedule that the London court has set out. And the Court, we
4 would suggest, may want to have a scheduling coordination
5 communication, once this is all sorted out, with the London
6 court to explain when this Court thinks these issues will be
7 presented. And that, of course, does not anticipate what the
8 London court's going to do with that information but as the
9 London court clearly suggested, the vice chancery, it would be
10 helpful to the London court to know what assistance this Court
11 might be requesting. And this would be simply notice of when
12 this Court might be in a position to make the decision on
13 whether it needs assistance and what sort of assistance or
14 coordination it might request.

15 So we think in that logical order the Court will have
16 space and time to consider things, all the parties will be
17 heard. There's going to be adequate briefing on the issues.
18 Nobody's rights are going to be prejudiced and the concerns of
19 BNY that it's going to somehow have to pay this money out twice
20 or not get guidance from the courts, we think is completely
21 fictitious and is not something that has any realistic
22 possibility of existing under these circumstances.

23 I'd be happy to take any questions, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: I have a couple.

25 MR. MILLER: Yes, Your Honor.

1 THE COURT: I note the Federal Deposit Insurance
2 Corporation vs. Bank of New York decision that you handed up
3 and I've really only focused on the highlighted language on
4 page 10, which states a proposition that's probably beyond
5 doubt. It's really just a question of its application.

6 The highlighted sentence reads, "It is well settled
7 that adjudicating an absent person's claim cannot impair or
8 impede the person's ability to protect his interest if he is
9 adequately represented by one of the existing parties." And it
10 goes on to talk about the role of the indentured trustee under
11 a bond issue.

12 What concerns me here, in light of the argument made
13 by BNY though is their argument that they have no duty to
14 represent the interests of Perpetual in this litigation absent
15 an indemnity. And that that question remains in dispute and
16 that as a result they can just sit on their hands, whether they
17 choose to do that remains to be seen.

18 If they just sit on their hands how are the interests
19 of Perpetual represented adequately?

20 MR. MILLER: Well Your Honor, let me respond to that
21 in two ways. First of all, I understand Mr. Schaffer takes the
22 position, and we believe this is a correct reading if our
23 language was not precise we apologize, that the vice chancellor
24 has decided that they are indemnified. The vice chancellor has
25 just not decided what the form of that indemnity is going to

1 be.

2 THE COURT: And that's consistent with my questioning
3 of Mr. Schaffer during his argument.

4 MR. MILLER: Yes, Your Honor. So we think that it's
5 not factually the case that they don't have an indemnity. They
6 don't quite have the form of the indemnity but that doesn't
7 prevent them from going forward and in fact we think they're
8 obligated to go forward and assert the interests of Perpetual.

9 But to answer your second question, how are the
10 interests adequately protected, the interests are adequately
11 protected because precisely the same statutory and legal issues
12 are going to be briefed by BNY and by AFLAC in the coordinated
13 proceeding which is occurring. And this Court is going to have
14 all the legislative history, if you decide legislative history
15 is relevant, and the case law and all of the other issues.

16 This is distinct in the sense that in neither of these
17 cases is there any suggestion of factual disputes. And that,
18 by the way, is the one of the reasons that forum non conveniens
19 makes no sense here. There is no witnesses, there is no
20 documents, there's nothing that's a convenience issue here that
21 implicates forum non conveniens. This is unique because it is
22 a legal dispute and the legal issues are going to be before
23 this Court from this very same party, BNY, with indemnity. So
24 in that sense the interests of Perpetual will be protected and
25 will be fully asserted and will be considered by the Court.

1 And certainly LBSF agrees that it's appropriate for the Court
2 to take into consideration the briefing in that other case and
3 to rely upon it.

4 And if BNY simply chooses to incorporate its position
5 by reference, I think Mr. Schaffer said he thought it would be
6 unlikely he would take an inconsistent position in the cases.
7 It can do so and it can do so with or without indemnity. And
8 in those circumstances Perpetual's interests are protected.

9 THE COURT: I'm a little unclear as to the status of
10 the UNCITRAL Model Law provisions as they have been activated
11 in the U.K. and where things stand procedurally. Is there, at
12 this point, an authorized and empowered foreign representative
13 for LBSF speaking on behalf of that estate in the high court?

14 MR. MILLER: Your Honor, I haven't had that updated in
15 the last day or two. My understanding is that an application
16 has been made for a foreign representative to be appointed but
17 there has not actually been a ruling on that application yet.
18 It is expected, I believe, and I think the vice chancellor
19 recognized that this is a fairly formalistic thing and it's
20 very likely that that will proceed and will occur. Exactly
21 when, I don't know but certainly before October and we
22 anticipate that there will be a foreign representative.

23 Now that foreign representative then has to take
24 actions and do things, I mean the mere appointment does not
25 change things. That foreign representative will, of course, be

1 acting for the Lehman estates.

2 The Court, by the way, I'm told that would deal with
3 this is in recess in England as are other courts in summer
4 recess that we've discussed before, Your Honor, as a very
5 civilized practice. So I believe it is the recess that has
6 caused this delay and we don't believe any substantive issues.

7 THE COURT: I've expressed my envy as to that in the
8 past.

9 MR. MILLER: I understand, Your Honor. It's about
10 space and time, right?

11 THE COURT: Well, yes. And the opportunity to
12 refresh.

13 Now, I'm unfamiliar with outbound practice in the
14 model law context, all of my experience is inbound experience
15 in which foreign representatives come to this court and seek
16 recognition under Chapter 15. Ordinarily the foreign
17 representatives who are appointed are representatives of
18 accounting firms or other liquidators acting on behalf of
19 foreign entities.

20 Is the party to be authorized to speak on behalf of
21 LBSF as a foreign representative a current employee of the
22 debtor in possession or is there some mechanism for appointing
23 a third-party fiduciary to act on behalf of LBSF?

24 MR. MILLER: My understanding is, Your Honor, that it
25 is a representative of the debtor. Of course to the extent

1 that a debtor is, to some extent, a fiduciary of its
2 constituencies --

3 THE COURT: Oh, I understand that.

4 MR. MILLER: -- it would have that. But yes, the
5 foreign representative is just a debtor's representative.

6 THE COURT: It will be a designated individual, is
7 that correct?

8 MR. MILLER: Yes, I believe that's correct Your Honor.

9 THE COURT: Okay.

10 MR. MILLER: And I'm not certain I know who that is,
11 it may be someone in our law firm's London office but I'm not
12 certain who that is.

13 THE COURT: All right. Under the American Law
14 Institute procedures on court-to-court communication, such
15 communication typically only occurs upon the adoption of a
16 protocol in which, in this instance, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court
17 and the chancellor of the High Court would be empowered to
18 confer with one another pursuant to a set of approved
19 procedures and principles. Is there any understanding, at this
20 point, as to such a protocol? I know that in the Lehman case
21 itself the adoption of a multi-lateral protocol has been a
22 subject of some controversy as it has related to LBIE in
23 particular. This is not an LBIE issue but I do recognize the
24 potential for there being some sensitivity as it relates to
25 court-to-court communication between me in my capacity as the

1 bankruptcy judge administering these adversary proceedings and
2 me in my capacity as the bankruptcy judge who has overall case
3 authority for the Lehman bankruptcy as a whole. Recognizing
4 that at least as it relates to LBIE, I note that there has been
5 some pushback from the joint administrators of LBIE as it
6 relates to that multi-lateral protocol which has been
7 characterized as the Alvarez & Marsal protocol by them.

8 To what extent do any of these broader political
9 issues in the case represent a potential area of controversy as
10 it involves court-to-court communication?

11 MR. MILLER: Your Honor, Mr. Lemmons has confirmed, my
12 understanding is that this case does not have any relationship
13 to those protocols or the issues that are involved there. We
14 did speak earlier to some of the people who were dealing with
15 those and they didn't think that this was a related issue.
16 There, of course, LBIE does have its own administrators. As
17 the Court has noted, LBIE is not involved in this and we don't
18 believe LBIE has anything to do with this nor any other
19 bankruptcy administration.

20 We think that the procedure here could be a letter,
21 for example, requesting scheduling which the Court could simply
22 send to the vice chancellor that would make reference to the
23 various procedures. And we would be pleased, Your Honor, to
24 draft such a letter if we were authorized to do so and
25 circulate it to the parties and try to present it to the Court.

1 The only purpose of the letter at this point, we are
2 suggesting, is to advise that court of scheduling constraints
3 so that it can take those into account with regard to its
4 schedule. We think that's all that's needed at this point.
5 But we think it would be helpful and fair to the London court
6 to understand that and of course we're not familiar with what
7 scheduling constraints the Court might have and I think that
8 may be some of the subject of the discussion in this next
9 session we're going to have. So we think that that -- we have
10 a high degree of confidence that that would lead -- we
11 certainly believe there will be a cooperative attitude. The
12 vice chancellor has expressed nothing but graciousness and
13 understanding of the complexity and a great deal of sensitivity
14 to these issues. And we anticipate that this will be
15 considered receptively. We don't know what the outcome would
16 be, of course, but at least it would be an appropriate way, we
17 think, to frame the issue and let the London court know what
18 this Court needs in the way of space and time.

19 THE COURT: Fine. Okay. One follow-up question on
20 court-to-court communication. You have been focusing, at least
21 initially, on scheduling coordination as opposed to allocation
22 of responsibility for determining issues that overlap in the
23 two courts. Is it your contemplation, consistent with some of
24 the conversations that I had with Mr. Schaffer during his
25 presentation, that it would be reasonable to work out, if

1 feasible, an allocation of responsibility in which the English
2 high court would deal with matters of English law and would be
3 primary, if not exclusive, in that area. And the U.S.
4 Bankruptcy Court would deal with issues of U.S. bankruptcy law
5 with the English court deferring to the United States
6 Bankruptcy Court as to issues of U.S. bankruptcy law?

7 MR. MILLER: Certainly, Your Honor, and it seems to us
8 that is a logical and a reasonable way to deal with that. I
9 think, in fairness, until the issues of bankruptcy law are
10 determined, how they may be relevant to the English court
11 judgment is impossible to predict. But we certainly think that
12 the English court has already expressed an interest in how this
13 Court is going to resolve these bankruptcy issues. And we
14 think that that proposed allocation is something that not only
15 makes sense but we think it's consistent with all the case law
16 and the residents.

17 THE COURT: And I mention this only for discussion
18 purposes and not because I think it's a desirable option; in my
19 experience, recently, I have had joint hearings, televised
20 joint hearings with the Canadian court in Montreal in a cross-
21 border bankruptcy case, Quebecor World. Those joint hearings
22 took place as recently as this summer, quite successfully I
23 might add. Is there any contemplation that a matter of this
24 sort might be reasonably adjudicated through some kind of joint
25 hearing in which arguments are being made simultaneously, both

1 in the High Court and here with video hookups or is that simply
2 unnecessary and unduly complicating?

3 MR. MILLER: Well certainly, Your Honor, as far as
4 LBSF is concerned, if the Court has any interest in doing that
5 it would certainly be happy to cooperate. But there are no
6 factual issues here. There are no witnesses that we think are
7 relevant. Everything is in the documents. And under the
8 circumstances we're not certain that the benefit of a televised
9 hearing would be worth the complexity and the burden. It's
10 essentially an issue of oral arguments. And again, I don't
11 believe that --

12 THE COURT: It would, however, be a way for me to hear
13 from counsel for Perpetual.

14 MR. MILLER: It would. That's a very good point, Your
15 Honor. And there certainly is an issue here of ultimately if
16 we had a finding that U.S. bankruptcy law ipso facto
17 provisions, for example, invalidated these clauses that change
18 priority based on bankruptcy, which is what LBSF is seeking.
19 And the English court had concluded its appeals and had decided
20 that setting aside all U.S. bankruptcy issues under English law
21 that the priority was noteholder priority, there's ultimately
22 going to have to be a question of -- essentially a choice of
23 law question between U.S. bankruptcy law and the law of the
24 contract under the circumstances. That would certainly seem to
25 be an appropriate issue, perhaps, for a joint hearing Your

1 Honor because that's going to be something where both courts
2 are going to have to deal with that issue. But that's far down
3 the road, it seems to us. It would certainly be an opportunity
4 for Perpetual to be heard on that issue. They have chosen, in
5 effect, to rest on that issue rather than to come in to contest
6 on this issue. They've chosen to rest on the premise that the
7 London court should trump this Court regardless of U.S.
8 bankruptcy law. So we assume that would be their position that
9 might be in that hearing and that would be a very appropriate
10 time for such a joint hearing, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

12 MR. MILLER: Thank you. Is there anyone else that
13 wishes to be heard on this? Mr. Schaffer do you have any
14 follow up comments?

15 MR. SCHAFFER: Your Honor, I don't know if the
16 committee wishes to be heard, if not I have just a few remarks.

17 THE COURT: Does the committee have any --

18 MR. COHEN: No, Your Honor. As I promised when you
19 granted our intervention we would not be duplicative and we
20 agree with the debtors' arguments and position and have worked
21 closely with them on formulating those.

22 THE COURT: Understood.

23 MR. SCHAFFER: Your Honor, if I may briefly speak to
24 some of Mr. Miller's remarks. The FDIC case is something that
25 we addressed in our memorandum at pages 14 and 15. And what I

1 think is significant there is that it notes that where the
2 beneficiary and the trustee are antagonistic, there is no
3 adequate representation. Here, unlike in the FDIC case, we
4 haven't represented the beneficiary before. We don't have
5 indemnification, they sued us. We are antagonistic. This
6 really is the textbook example referred to in Pimentel.

7 Your Honor, there was some brief discussion of could
8 Perpetual be joined and Mr. Miller suggest that perhaps they
9 could be. If they can be, I don't know why we wouldn't want to
10 have them joined. In the briefing there was a suggestion that
11 is this Court dismisses the complaint they'd like to have leave
12 to amend to join Perpetual and we don't object to that.

13 Your Honor, there was a question you asked, why should
14 the holders be sued? Who has the beneficial interest? And we
15 looked at this chart, there are a couple of lines that are
16 missing from the chart and that is the lines between BNY
17 corporate trustee, I'd say there are dotted lines to LBSF and
18 to Perpetual because we as trustee are holding funds and they
19 are the two competing claimants. There really are lines there;
20 they just haven't been put on that chart.

21 There was a question about interpleader, Your Honor.
22 Interpleader works if you have consistent decisions from both
23 courts. If we had no risk of inconsistent decisions an
24 interpleader might work.

25 Of course this case is not the AFLAC case. Our

1 appearance there is not an appearance for Perpetual. And in
2 any event, whatever happens in AFLAC would not necessarily
3 resolve the risk of inconsistent judgments in this case.

4 As a final point, I was somewhat heartened to hear Mr.
5 Miller say that unless and until we have indemnification,
6 there's no real risk for us, we're not going to have to pay the
7 money out to two different parties. If we have that assurance,
8 if they're telling us that they'll agree we don't have to pay
9 something out until we've got an order that appropriately
10 covers us from both courts, well that's a very good thing. If
11 we know we're --

12 THE COURT: So are you withdrawing your motion on that
13 representation?

14 MR. SCHAFFER: Your Honor, I am not but I would invite
15 an order from this or the English court that says you will
16 never be exposed to conflicting orders, and I'll end on that
17 note.

18 THE COURT: I can't imagine anybody ever giving you
19 that assurance. But I think it makes some sense for me to give
20 everybody a break, we've been at this for an hour and forty
21 minutes and I'm going to take fifteen minutes to reflect on
22 what I've heard and I'll come back at about five to 12. We're
23 adjourned till then.

24 (Recess from 11:39 a.m. until 12:02 p.m.)

25 THE COURT: Please be seated. This is a very

1 challenging motion to dismiss, and I've given this matter
2 considerable attention, both before the argument in reading the
3 briefing, and since the argument, following what I think was a
4 very well-presented argument on both sides.

5 One of my initial judgments, and it hasn't been
6 altered by the argument, is that the legal argument in the
7 AFLAC litigation is, in effect, a derivative for this
8 litigation. What makes this an especially challenging matter
9 to decide as a free-standing motion to dismiss or to stay or to
10 abstain, is that BNY as a party-defendant here, is a party-
11 defendant in another litigation in which it is comfortable to
12 articulate the very same legal arguments that would otherwise
13 be articulated in this litigation.

14 As a result, this is not about BNY's saving time and
15 expense or avoiding discovery, because we're not dealing with
16 discovery or witnesses or evidence; we're dealing purely with
17 legal issues as far as I can tell. This motion practice is
18 really about BNY's attempting to avoid being caught in the
19 middle of a conflict in which the High Court in London may
20 declare that noteholder priorities are applicable, and the
21 bankruptcy court in New York may declare that swap counterparty
22 priorities are applicable.

23 In stating what I have just stated, I am not, by any
24 stretch of the imagination, suggesting what I would decide
25 after considering the matter on the merits, but that is, in

1 effect, BNY's problem. What's a fiduciary to do when presented
2 with conflicting legal authority, that is, by definition,
3 irreconcilable?

4 The narrow question presented, however, is whether
5 dismissal of this action is required under the strict
6 application of Rule 19 principles involving allegedly necessary
7 or allegedly indispensable parties. In this case that party is
8 Perpetual. I understand Perpetual to be a large and
9 sophisticated financial institution based in Australia with
10 billions of Australian dollars under management. I have no
11 knowledge one way or the other as to whether Perpetual does
12 business in the United States and is subject to the
13 jurisdiction of the U.S. Courts. But by virtue of the fact
14 that they're not here and no effort has been made by either
15 LBSF or BNY to join Perpetual, I'm going to assume for purposes
16 of what I'm about to say that Perpetual either could not be
17 joined, or if joined, that there would be some kind of
18 jurisdictional argument made by Perpetual in which Perpetual
19 would seek to extricate itself from the litigation and argue
20 that there are insufficient contacts to permit the exercise of
21 jurisdiction over them.

22 I further assume that what's going on here involves
23 some measure of game theory on both sides of the Atlantic. I
24 assume that Perpetual has brought the litigation that it has
25 brought in the High Court because it perceives tactical

1 advantages and substantive advantages in having its claims
2 against BNY heard there. I further assume that LBSF has made
3 the judgment that this bankruptcy court is probably the best
4 forum in which to litigate issues that relate to the proper
5 interpretation of certain provisions of the United States
6 Bankruptcy Code, and that it makes sense for that litigation to
7 be pursued, regardless of whether Perpetual is a party or can
8 be named as a party.

9 This gets us to the crux of the matter. To what
10 extent is BNY a fair representative of Perpetual for purposes
11 of adjudicating this dispute? BNY is, after all, a corporate
12 trustee. I made some reference to the highlighted quote from
13 the FDIC v. Bank of New York case from the district court in
14 the District of Columbia. And the highlighted portion, which
15 appears to be black-letter law, it's just a question of how
16 it's to be applied, states that, "It is well settled that
17 adjudicating an absent person's claim cannot 'impair or impede
18 the person's ability to protect his interest' if he is
19 adequately represented by one of the existing parties."

20 BNY asserts that it cannot be such an existing party
21 that can adequately represent the interests of Perpetual in
22 this litigation, because they're actually adverse in litigation
23 in the High Court, and that antagonism represents an effective
24 bar to BNY's standing here in a representative capacity. I'm
25 not convinced of that. I believe that the litigation in the

1 High Court -- and I have only a limited understanding of that
2 litigation, and so I comment on it at my peril -- is
3 fundamentally not about the issues that are presented to me in
4 this litigation.

5 In a sense, both litigations touch on BNY's duties as
6 a fiduciary. And their rights and entitlements to indemnity
7 are certainly center stage in the U.K. litigation. But this is
8 really forum selection that goes to the heart of substantive
9 rights. The substantive issues are not before me at the
10 moment. But at some point, I will be asked to consider whether
11 noteholder priorities, as those terms are defined in the
12 documents, or swap counterparty priorities, are applicable in
13 light of bankruptcy provisions.

14 I'm sensitive to the issues of comity and cooperation
15 and coordination that have been discussed throughout the
16 argument. But I also recognize that the only rational outcome
17 here that makes good sense in a cross-border setting, is for
18 the United States Bankruptcy Court to be the principal if not
19 exclusive decider of issues relating to U.S. bankruptcy law.
20 And similarly, it makes sense for the High Court in London to
21 be the principal if not exclusive decider of issues of English
22 law. I think it's very difficult for rational and fair-minded
23 people to disagree with that proposition.

24 The question becomes whether BNY, feeling some self-
25 described insecurity with respect to its own status, is, at

1 this juncture, a person that can fairly represent the interests
2 of Perpetual in this litigation? And I answer that, yes, it
3 is. It is, in part, because it will be doing exactly that if
4 it simply sits on its hands in this litigation and actively
5 prosecutes its position in the AFLAC case.

6 As noted during argument, Mr. Schaffer, on behalf of
7 his client, acknowledged this point. It's inconceivable that
8 BNY will be taking a position in the AFLAC case that isn't
9 exactly congruent with the position that it would be taking
10 here, in the Perpetual case. Presumably, and I don't know what
11 it will be saying in substance, BNY will be rooting for its
12 beneficiary, AFLAC, that I gather will be arguing in favor of
13 noteholder priority.

14 While the facts may be subtly different, the legal
15 issues are exactly the same, as I'm understanding the situation
16 presented here. And so, if BNY does nothing other than
17 ardently present the legal argument that it will be advancing
18 in the AFLAC case, it will coincidentally also be ardently
19 advocating the very same points in the Perpetual case.
20 Accordingly, it seems to me clear that BNY will at least
21 indirectly be adequately representing the interests of
22 Perpetual.

23 What we end up with, as a result, is a fairly subtle
24 issue that seems to be more about the interests of the
25 corporate trustee than it is about strict application of

1 pleading principles. BNY has quite appropriately sought to
2 extricate itself from a difficult situation here so as not to
3 be at the wrong end of conflicting directions from two courts.
4 I believe that coordination is the most appropriate answer to
5 this problem. Both counsel for BNY and counsel for LBSF have
6 spoken to the issue of coordination during argument today.
7 It's not clear to me that they are on exactly the same page as
8 it relates to the nature of this coordination. Mr. Miller has
9 been very precise in talking about scheduling coordination;
10 whereas Mr. Schaffer has been broader in his approach, and has
11 acknowledged the wisdom of a more comprehensive form of
12 allocation of responsibility. I'm not sure if that's something
13 that he actually believes or if he was simply agreeing with
14 something that I had said. But either way, that's the message
15 that I took from him.

16 Accordingly, I have some uncertainty as I make these
17 comments from the bench as to whether the parties are in a
18 position to stipulate as to the nature of the coordination that
19 should take place here. But I did hear Mr. Miller volunteer to
20 be the drafter of a letter that presumably would be shared with
21 counsel for BNY, and that presumably I might send, with
22 everybody's consent, to my counterparty in London, to initiate
23 court-to-court communication, and at least to get into the
24 question of scheduling as an initial matter.

25 Whether the coordination is simply scheduling

1 coordination or broader coordination that deals with abstention
2 and deferring to other courts for purposes of avoiding
3 conflicting adjudications, I believe that some level of
4 coordination is mandated here. And my reading of the High
5 Court's decision is more consistent with LBSF's reading than it
6 is BNY's reading. I do not know what the Chancellor was
7 meaning to say, nor do I interpret his words. I do know what I
8 understood them to be telling me. He was giving me space and
9 time. Space and time to do what, is what's in dispute.

10 I believe that the decision does not represent an
11 express deferral in favor of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court as it
12 relates to U.S. bankruptcy law issues. But I do believe that
13 the decision can be understood to be allowing time for the U.S.
14 Bankruptcy Court to hear, consider and determine issues that
15 are unique to U.S. bankruptcy practice.

16 Given that, and given what I believe to be BNY's real
17 purpose here, which is to avoid being torn apart by conflicting
18 decisions, the best means to achieve that is through
19 coordination. That doesn't mean that that will be the outcome.
20 That just means that it's a means to avoid bad adverse result,
21 without guarantees that it will be avoided.

22 I believe, as a matter of law, that Perpetual is not
23 an indispensable party. Perpetual may or may not be a
24 necessary party, but I don't need to decide that question.
25 Without doubt, Perpetual is a directly interested and affected

1 party, and a sophisticated one, at that. Perpetual has the
2 capacity, should it elect to do so, to closely monitor and
3 participate in this litigation. For tactical reasons, I
4 assume, it has decided to stay away, which is its right.

5 BNY, however, doesn't have a choice to stay away. BNY
6 is here as trustee, entitled to indemnification as a matter of
7 English law. The form of such indemnification being, at this
8 point, not yet finally determined. It is exposed to only a
9 theoretical risk at this juncture.

10 The motion to dismiss the litigation is denied for the
11 reasons I have stated. But I also believe that in order to
12 achieve coordination and consistency here, in this Court, that
13 the scheduling of matters in the Perpetual litigation should be
14 coordinated fully with the scheduling of matters in the AFLAC
15 separate litigation. That way BNY in particular will be able,
16 to some extent, to finesse its position. It will be able to
17 make arguments at the same time with the benefit of full
18 indemnity in the AFLAC case that I assume will be the very same
19 arguments that it would make in the Perpetual case.

20 Furthermore, that kind of coordination will be of
21 benefit of the Court by giving the Court the opportunity to
22 hear at one time from sophisticated lawyers, issues that I'm
23 told are of first impression and that should be as fully and
24 effectively briefed as possible.

25 That's the Court's ruling. To the extent that anyone

1 wishes to seek judicial review of that ruling, which has been
2 made, as you can observe, extemporaneously, I would like the
3 opportunity to prepare a memorandum decision. But otherwise,
4 this bench ruling will suffice.

5 What's the next matter?

6 MR. MILLER: Your Honor, we do have a form of order
7 and a disk for editing purposes, if you'd like to have it. Or
8 the Court may simply let the transcript cover this. I don't
9 know what the Court would like to have. I can present it to
10 you.

11 THE COURT: Well, we'll probably modify it to make
12 clear that the order is incorporating by reference the bench
13 comments made within the last twenty minutes.

14 MR. MILLER: Continuing, Ralph Miller for LBSF. I
15 believe the next matter on the agenda, Your Honor, is based on
16 a letter that we sent the Court asking for a conference in case
17 number 8-13555. Is that the matter the Court wants to consider
18 now? That's the Lehman Brothers Special Financing v. American
19 Family Life Assurance Company of Columbus and BNY Corporate
20 Trustee Services case.

21 THE COURT: Let's to there.

22 MR. MILLER: All right, Your Honor. I think, first of
23 all, it is important to distinguish between cases that have
24 some commercial imperatives and cases where we are dealing with
25 administration and judicial efficiency and other issues.

1 So far as we know, there is no commercial imperative.
2 I might contrast that with the Libra case, for example, where
3 we have an expiring option and market conditions have changed
4 and there's some considerable doubt as to whether that is a
5 melting snowball of some sort. In this case, the funds in both
6 the AFLAC case and the present case that we were just
7 discussing, which we called the Saphir or Mahogany case, are
8 held by trustees, in this case BNY. This is also true of other
9 cases where this issue might ultimately come up. And these are
10 sophisticated parties on the other side. We're not talking
11 about individuals who are not getting money. That money's
12 invested at interest. So I want to start out by stressing that
13 there is no great urgency as between one month and the next
14 month in terms of when this has to be resolved.

15 There is a summary judgment that has been filed in the
16 Saphir Mahogany case some time ago, but we assured the Court at
17 that time, and we've assured BNY, that we want to give them
18 adequate time to respond to that, now that this motion to
19 dismiss has been ruled. We're not trying to squeeze them.
20 More importantly, we understand the Court has many issues that
21 it is considering, and we're not trying to squeeze the Court
22 with briefing on things that are unnecessary in terms of not
23 enough time, particularly between the reply brief and the
24 hearing dates.

25 For those reasons, we have proposed a schedule.

1 Summary judgment has been filed, as you know, by AFLAC. And
2 LBSF would like, with leave of Court, to file a cross summary
3 judgment. And we proposed to do that by August the 21st --
4 this is in my letter -- with responses due by September the
5 11th, and replies due October the 2nd, and hearing the week of
6 October 12th or thereafter. We also have, by the way, a
7 corresponding suggestion on how the Saphir schedule could be
8 coordinated with that, which is not in my letter; but just to
9 note that it would be possible for BNY, if it wished to file a
10 motion for summary judgment, which it may not, to file by
11 August 21st. Responses could be simultaneously done September
12 the 18th, a little later, to give more time; October 9th
13 replies, and then a hearing thereafter, as the Court might see
14 fit. We don't know whether BNY would want to file a cross
15 motion for summary judgment in the Saphir Montgomery (sic)
16 case, or not, but we certainly believe that's appropriate, if
17 it chooses to do that.

18 And -- something I want to clarify. The Perpetual
19 case is the same as the Saphir case. I mean, the Saphir
20 Mahogany case is what we call the Perpetual case. Just to make
21 sure the record is clear. Perpetual, of course, is not a
22 party, so we used the names of those entities that are parties.

23 Now, there is, and you will shortly hear from, I
24 believe, Mr. Weber here on behalf of AFLAC. And they are
25 suggesting that there is some need to get all this done by

1 September the 17th, which is a date where some matters are set
2 in the Ballyrock case. We don't believe that's necessary, Your
3 Honor. We don't think the issues are the same, and I'll
4 explain why briefly.

5 The Ballyrock setting is on a motion to dismiss, it's
6 not a summary judgment. There's nothing, in our view, that can
7 happen on September the 17th that's going to implicate any
8 determinative outcome in these cases. Obviously, if the Court
9 should grant the motion the dismiss and find -- first of all,
10 there are issues ahead of the issue of ipso facto and Safe
11 Harbors which have to be resolved issues wrongful termination,
12 other issues that may well cause that issue never to be
13 reached. If it were reached, the only possibility that it
14 could have any impact here, would be if the Court decided not
15 to dismiss the pleading.

16 Well, these pleadings already have not been dismissed.
17 There has not been dismissal practice. So that just puts them
18 on the same footing. We don't think that would have any
19 implication. It's not the same standard.

20 So we don't believe there is any need to try to rush
21 toward something basically a month from now on September the
22 17th. And I think that's the primary issue of dispute. There
23 have been some discussions about whether the Court might be
24 willing to put off that September 17th hearing. I think there
25 may be counsel here for Barclays and some of the parties in the

1 Ballyrock case, and they can speak for themselves. My
2 understanding is those parties don't want to put off that
3 hearing. So we're not suggesting a change in that hearing.

4 THE COURT: The hearing was already put off at my
5 request because of some congestion in my own trial calendar.
6 So that was already an adjourn date. So I can appreciate
7 parties saying let's get on with it.

8 MR. MILLER: Well, so we're not suggesting that, Your
9 Honor. But our suggestion is that those are not linked
10 matters. We believe that if the Court adopted a schedule along
11 the lines that we have suggested, there would be ample time for
12 briefing; there would be ample time for the Court to consider
13 the replies; and you would have the briefing before you, and we
14 think that that would be logical. We also believe it is
15 consistent with the general schedule that the High Court has
16 set. The coordination letter could then set out what the date
17 of this hearing was and the Court would know -- obviously date
18 of decision would not be clear from that, but it would at least
19 know that that matter was moving forward, and it would be
20 submitted to the Court in an orderly fashion and in a
21 coordinated fashion.

22 And that is our proposal, Your Honor, for scheduling.
23 I believe other parties have other views, and we want to let
24 them --

25 THE COURT: Fine.

1 MR. MILLER: -- discuss it.

2 THE COURT: Let's hear what others have to say.

3 MR. WEBER: Your Honor, Rob Weber from Skadden Arps,
4 again for AFLAC. Your Honor, let me start with an apology. If
5 we surprised or offended the Court or our adversaries by our
6 filing before formal leave to file for summary judgment had
7 been granted, we didn't intend to do so, and that's not the way
8 we wanted to start off. So I wanted --

9 THE COURT: I understand.

10 MR. WEBER: -- to clear air on that.

11 THE COURT: You jumped the gun, but it's okay.

12 MR. WEBER: It does seem to have refined the
13 scheduling discussion a bit. So now that we're on that, where
14 to start? AFLAC is not involved in the Perpetual proceeding.

15 THE COURT: I understand that.

16 MR. WEBER: The common legal issues are of dire
17 concern to us, and we have been, since this case began,
18 speaking loudly and to anyone who would listen, that a
19 coordinated, comprehensive approach to all of the adversaries
20 with the common legal issues, needs to be developed. And
21 unfortunately, it hasn't happened yet.

22 The reason that we are pressing for the September 17th
23 hearing date as the date in our proceeding, Your Honor, is that
24 because we do believe the Court could reach one of the common
25 legal issues. It may not happen in the chain of possibilities

1 until near the end, but the debtors have raised their arguments
2 regarding 541(c) and 365(e), and to some extent the Safe
3 Harbors. Ballyrock does not think the Safe Harbors are
4 involved, because they terminated pre-petition and didn't rely
5 on the Safe Harbors. But there is a chance that the Court
6 could reach the common legal issues on September 17th.

7 Now, it's not a lot of time, but I will say this.
8 When we were here a month ago, Mr. Miller told you that his
9 summary judgment brief in the AFLAC case would look just like
10 the one he had already filed in the Perpetual case. He's
11 already briefed those issues. I'm not sure of the extent to
12 which additional work will be required, our brief is pretty
13 good, but they'll have to respond.

14 To clarify one point on the way the issues are being
15 characterized. It's not just an issue of noteholder priority
16 versus swap counterparty priority. One doesn't even reach the
17 noteholder priority issue, as we've set out in our summary
18 judgment papers, Your Honor. There's a termination provision.
19 And if the swaps are terminated because of an LBSF default,
20 they get no termination payment, period. And it doesn't matter
21 whether that termination is based upon an ipso facto provision,
22 which the Safe Harbors would insulate, or some other form of
23 default which the contracts also contemplate. So that is a
24 threshold issue.

25 There are a number of proceedings that are already

1 filed where these common legal issues appear in some form or
2 another. And because of the different facts, it may well be
3 like in our case, that a termination occurred post-petition,
4 but the collateral has been tied up and is still sitting there.
5 It may well be, as in the Ballyrock case, that the termination
6 occurred and the collateral was mostly disbursed, and the
7 fight's happening after the fact, trying to reel it in or do
8 something else.

9 But the common legal issues are looming, they're
10 large, and from what I understand, there's 10 to 12 billion
11 dollars more of transactions waiting to be decided based on the
12 results of these common issues. Who knows? They may end up in
13 adversaries before Your Honor.

14 So we don't think, as a threshold matter, that the
15 September 17th date is going to be as difficult to meet as
16 perhaps others do. We are happy to meet whatever briefing
17 schedule the Court would like, working backwards from that
18 date, or alternatively, the mechanism that Mr. Miller alluded
19 to, we had discussed briefly with the Ballyrock parties. To
20 the extent the Court wants to rule on anything other than the
21 common issues in the Ballyrock case, go forward on the 17th.
22 But if the Court were to reach the common issues, we had
23 suggested that we ask jointly the Court to defer ruling until
24 it could hear in the AFLAC matter. Ballyrock was not agreeable
25 to that, and I understand their position.

1 So, does the Court have any questions?

2 THE COURT: Not at this moment. Is there anyone else
3 who wishes to speak to scheduling?

4 MR. WEBER: Thank you, Your Honor.

5 MR. COHEN: Good afternoon, Your Honor. David Cohen
6 with Milbank Tweed Hadley & McCloy here on behalf of the
7 committee.

8 We agree with the Court's direction on the last
9 motion, that the Perpetual and AFLAC matters should be closely
10 coordinated. We agree with the Court that those cases should
11 be heard together on the same day. We also agree that the
12 schedule put forward by Mr. Miller with respect to scheduling
13 summary judgment is an appropriate schedule. It gives the
14 parties time to work through these novel issues. It gives the
15 Court time to digest these issues.

16 While there may be certain overlap on some factual
17 issues in the Ballyrock case or the Harrier's RACERS case,
18 which are being heard on the 17th, we don't think every
19 adversary or every motion that touches upon these issues needs
20 to be scheduled on the same day. So we would support a hearing
21 in the Perpetual and the AFLAC matters during the week of
22 October 12th, with the schedule set forth by the debtors.

23 THE COURT: Anyone else wishes to be heard on this?
24 Mr. Schaffer?

25 MR. SCHAFFER: Your Honor, Eric Schaffer, BNY

1 Corporate Trustee Services. I have no problem with anything
2 Mr. Weber has said with regard to AFLAC. I am troubled by the
3 proposed schedule with regard to Perpetual, where the Court
4 understands, we haven't been focused on the merits in any way.
5 We've been focused on some very different issues. And the idea
6 that we would now have ten days to file a summary judgment
7 motion and memorandum, when we haven't even filed an answer, is
8 certainly troubling.

9 It seems to be inconsistent with giving this Court an
10 opportunity to get things organized, perhaps, with the English
11 Court. And we may want to join Perpetual, we may want to do a
12 lot of things. I haven't spoken to my client. But I do know
13 that hearkening back to when LBSF first came before you with
14 its summary judgment motion on June 3rd, I remember alluding to
15 the argument right before us, and saying we shouldn't be jammed
16 on this. And you assured that we would have adequate time
17 to --

18 THE COURT: I remember telling you that you were not
19 going to be jammed.

20 MR. SCHAFFER: Yes. And, Your Honor, I think ten days
21 is inappropriate in the context of how the Perpetual case is
22 unfolding. I don't want to in any way take away from what Mr.
23 Weber has said, but that schedule does not work for us in the
24 context of the Perpetual case.

25 THE COURT: Okay. Someone else wishes to be heard. I

1 see another lawyer coming forward.

2 MS. SHANE: Thank you, Your Honor. Penny Shane from
3 Sullivan & Cromwell on behalf of Barclays. I just wanted to
4 confirm that Barclays does, in the Ballyrock matter, oppose
5 very much any further delay, precisely for the reason Your
6 Honor first articulated. There has been some delay already.
7 We certainly don't want to jam anybody, least of all the Court,
8 but agree with the position that's been stated, that there's
9 very little reason to expect that any overlapping issue would
10 implicate anybody else's rights. We don't think it's likely
11 the Court will get to those issues.

12 And in that unlikely event that the Court thought on
13 September 17th that an arguably overlapping issue might play a
14 role in the decision, we would ask that the Court consider then
15 what should flow from that in the way of postponing a decision,
16 if that were the way the Court was going. But we think it's so
17 unlikely, that it would be best addressed at that time.

18 THE COURT: Okay.

19 MS. SHANE: Thank you, Your Honor.

20 THE COURT: Let me just explain my schedule. I'm the
21 one who's jammed. And I'm not in a position to hear the AFLAC
22 matter on the 17th of September. And I also recognize from
23 what has been stated by certain parties that it would be
24 potentially burdensome, especially in the Perpetual case, for
25 BNY to be forced to a definitive argument on a summary judgment

1 as early as that.

2 I don't hear much objection to the schedule proposed
3 by Mr. Miller, although it seems to me that that's a schedule
4 that should be consensual to the greatest extent possible. And
5 so I think it makes some sense, during the lunch break, and
6 we're going to take one before we get to the matter in the LBI
7 case, for those parties who are in court and who are interested
8 in scheduling, to meet and confer about the dates that have
9 been proposed. And to the extent that there is agreement,
10 fine. To the extent that there needs to be adjustment, fine.
11 And you can then give me a status report at 2 o'clock on your
12 efforts to reach an agreement on scheduling.

13 I do think it make sense for there to be coordination
14 between the briefing schedule applicable to the Perpetual case
15 and the briefing schedule applicable to the AFLAC case. If
16 there isn't coordination as to briefing, there should at least
17 be coordination as to the timing of the hearing on those
18 dispositive motions.

19 I will note that the week of the 19th of October is
20 the annual conference of NCBJ, and I will be out for most of
21 that week. So we can't have oral argument that week. I will
22 also note, and I'm just saying this for purposes of fair notice
23 to everyone, that I have an unusually crowded docket at the
24 moment with demands for hearing dates that are sometimes
25 driven, not by the consent of the parties, but by the purported

1 demands of transactions within particular cases. For that
2 reason, even though I know that parties to the Ballyrock
3 litigation have already been adjourned once, not at their
4 urging, but at rather the Court's direction, it is conceivable,
5 that even if everybody agrees to a date, that there may be a
6 need to push dates around, just to accommodate and juggle my
7 calendar.

8 I'm going to try to do that minimally, and I'm going
9 to try to respect the dates that you select. But I'm only one
10 person, and there are many of you. Let's take a lunch break,
11 and hopefully you'll work out a schedule. And I'll hear that
12 at 2 o'clock. We're adjourned.

13 (Recess from 12:46 p.m. until 2:04 p.m.)

14 THE COURT: Please be seated. And I want to talk
15 about the scheduling of a conference as well as talking about
16 the schedule for the adversary proceedings that we were
17 discussing before the lunch break. First of all, has there
18 been some agreement reached on dates, or is there still a
19 disagreement?

20 MR. MILLER: Your Honor, Ralph Miller. There is great
21 progress. I'm not certain whether there's agreement or not,
22 but I'll report what we have learned and see if anybody wishes
23 to speak to the issue.

24 Mr. Schaffer has indicated that if BNY is going to
25 file a cross motion for summary judgment, which he thinks he

1 probably will, but I understand he's not spoken to his clients
2 yet, that he would need until the end of September for that.
3 So if we work off of that schedule, it would look like -- and
4 we did discuss these dates, but I'm then going to give the
5 qualifier on what the problems with that might be -- that would
6 give LBSF filing a summary judgment in AFLAC and BNY filing a
7 summary judgment in the Saphir/Perpetual/Mahogany case, on
8 Friday, September the 25th. Four weeks later, for joint
9 responses in all cases would be Friday, October 23rd. Then
10 giving ourselves two weeks and a weekend for replies, would be
11 November the 9th. And then giving the Court more than a week
12 before the week of the hearing, and we understand there's
13 nothing -- we don't know of anything that's scheduled that week
14 of the 9th, would mean that it could be scheduled the week of
15 the 16th and be heard before Thanksgiving, if the Court had
16 time before Thanksgiving. If not it could be heard afterward.

17 And that is a schedule that's certainly acceptable to
18 LBSF. It would obviously need to go through the coordination
19 process. Our understanding is that there probably -- Mr. Weber
20 may wish to speak about how he -- or not. And I don't know if
21 Mr. Schaffer wants to speak. But those are the dates that were
22 discussed with the group. And at least, they were the
23 proposals of Mr. Schaffer, and they're acceptable to the
24 debtor, LBSF.

25 THE COURT: Okay. We're partway there.

1 MR. SCHAFFER: Your Honor, Eric Schaffer for BNY
2 Corporate Trustee Services. Mr. Miller is accurate in reciting
3 the dates we discussed. At this point, you'll understand that
4 I can't commit to what, if anything, we might do with regard to
5 Perpetual. But certainly with regard to the AFLAC case,
6 there's no objection. Perpetual's a bit of a moving target.
7 And it may very well be that we'll be here in that respect as
8 well.

9 One thing that I mentioned to Mr. Miller and others is
10 that we're dealing with a bit of a moving target based on what
11 has happened in England. Right now we have a judgment of the
12 High Court that would have noteholder priority effective prior
13 to the filing of LBSF. That is very significant for purposes
14 of whether there could be an ipso facto issue at all.
15 Obviously, if that decision would be reversed on appeal, it
16 would have us writing a very different brief.

17 Mr. Miller's response was, well you can write in the
18 alternative. And I think he's right. But I simply wanted to
19 note that. And depending upon what applicable English law is,
20 we might have very different arguments.

21 A last point, Your Honor. I mentioned, I have not
22 been able to reach my client. It is possible we would be
23 seeking leave to appeal, and I don't want to leave court today
24 without noting that that's a possibility.

25 THE COURT: I considered everything possible.

1 MR. SCHAFFER: Thank you.

2 MR. WEBER: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Rob Weber,
3 from Skadden on behalf of AFLAC. Without bellyaching too much,
4 we can live with the schedule. But I do want to note a
5 concern. Because of the uncertainty in the Perpetual matter
6 with what happens in England, I am a little bit concerned about
7 coupling the two proceedings. AFLAC has no involvement in the
8 proceeding in England nor in the Perpetual case here. There
9 are common issues of bankruptcy law in the case here.

10 But to the extent that the scheduling or the timing in
11 the London proceeding or in the Perpetual proceeding gets held
12 up because there are appeals, etcetera, we still think we
13 should be moving ahead in the AFLAC matter.

14 THE COURT: I understand that. Here's what I think
15 makes sense. I think that since you started out by saying
16 you're not bellyaching too much, we should assume that you can
17 at least come up with a provisional schedule that assumes the
18 ability to manage the cases in tandem. If it turns out that
19 there is a development that makes it unworkable or unfair from
20 the perspective of your client to maintain that schedule, or
21 that there are delays associated with the Perpetual matter, we
22 can make adjustments at that time, or at least we can consider
23 making adjustments.

24 MR. WEBER: Understood, Your Honor. Thank you.

25 THE COURT: Okay.

1 MR. WEBER: One follow-up point. And I haven't
2 discussed this yet with Mr. Miller, so I hope I don't surprise
3 him too much. We're not fighting about the entire pot of cash.
4 There's no dispute that the amounts over and above what the
5 debtors claim in this pot of cash comes back to AFLAC. And
6 given the relaxed -- slightly more relaxed schedule that we're
7 now talking about, I would hope that we could work with the
8 debtors over the intervening weeks to come up with a mechanism
9 to release those excess funds back to AFLAC.

10 THE COURT: It sounds like it's at least a fruitful
11 topic for discussion and perhaps could lead to a stipulation.
12 But I can't mandate that.

13 MR. WEBER: Thank you, Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Are we done, then, with scheduling, for
15 the time being? I suggest that some kind of prehearing
16 scheduling order be prepared and submitted.

17 MR. MILLER: Your Honor, Ralph Miller again. If it's
18 acceptable with the Court and the parties, we'll then put
19 together an order and circulate it for comments and try to
20 present it to the Court.

21 THE COURT: That sounds fine. If the parties wish to
22 be excused, who are involved in the Perpetual and the AFLAC
23 proceedings, that's fine. They can leave now. But I did want
24 to also talk about the chambers conference that had been
25 requested. I think it slipped off my calendar. And I see Mr.

1 Gruenberger here. I would be inclined to have that conference
2 at your convenience, which may mean taking a break so that we
3 can have that conference, and then we can go to the LBI
4 adversary proceeding. But I don't want people to be
5 inconvenienced.

6 MR. GRUENBERGER: Your Honor, Peter Gruenberger, Weil
7 Gotshal & Manges, for the debtors. I don't think we'll be more
8 than fifteen minutes, Your Honor. And whenever Your Honor
9 believes best for Your Honor's schedule, we'll do it whenever
10 you'd like.

11 THE COURT: Let me just ask LBI's counsel and counsel
12 for the landlord in San Francisco for an estimate of time on
13 the argument relating to the motion to dismiss.

14 MR. LUBELL: I think it will be reasonably brief,
15 under half an hour.

16 THE COURT: Total?

17 MR. LUBELL: I think my opening will be ten minutes.

18 THE COURT: You think under a half hour total?

19 MR. LUBELL: Yes.

20 MS. GOLDSTEIN: I think that sounds fair, but in my
21 experience, lawyers tend to underestimate how much time they'll
22 be speaking.

23 THE COURT: That's true in my experience as well.

24 MS. GOLDSTEIN: Myself included. But I think it will
25 be relatively brief.

1 THE COURT: You know what I think makes sense, if it's
2 all right with you? Let's take a break until 2:30 to take care
3 of the chambers conference. And then we can release LBHI's
4 counsel and simply proceed with the LBI matter.

5 MR. MILLER: Thank you, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: And I'm going to suggest that we, if it's
7 available, use the large conference room down the hall, 608.
8 Okay. We're adjourned.

9 (Recess from 2:12 p.m. until 2:36 p.m.)

10 THE COURT: Be seated. Let's proceed.

11 MR. LUBELL: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Dan Lubell
12 from Hughes Hubbard & Reed for James W. Giddens, trustee of
13 Lehman Brothers Inc.

14 We're here today on the trustee's motion to dismiss
15 the complaint of HWA 555 Owners, LLC, the landlord of the San
16 Francisco premises previously occupied by LBI. HWA's complaint
17 seeks a declaration that LBI assume the lease of the San
18 Francisco property in connection with the purchase agreement
19 among Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc., Lehman Brothers Inc., LB
20 745 LLC and Barclays Capital Inc.

21 The trustee submits that, based upon the well-pleaded
22 allegations of the complaint and the record of this proceeding
23 as to which this Court may take judicial notice, that the
24 complaint should be dismissed because it fails to state a claim
25 upon which relief may be granted for at least three reasons.

1 First and foremost, there was neither a motion by the trustee
2 nor an order of the Court approving a standalone assumption of
3 the lease by the LBI estate, as is required by Section 365 of
4 the Bankruptcy Code. And when I'm talking about a standalone
5 assumption, I assume Your Honor understands I mean an
6 assumption by the estate itself under Section 365(b) as opposed
7 to the less risky assumption and assignment under 365(f), which
8 your sale order did address.

9 Second, HWA lacks rights to enforce the provisions of
10 the clarification letter upon which it relies for a standalone
11 assumption as section 13.9 of the purchase agreement
12 specifically disclaims third-party beneficiary rights and
13 allows under section 13.5 the parties themselves to amend the
14 provisions of their agreement, which the parties did in this
15 case under a waiver agreement filed with this Court.

16 And finally, even if HWA has standing to enforce the
17 clarification letter to compel the trustee to assume the San
18 Francisco lease, as HWA waited until the day the lease was
19 deemed rejected by Section 365(d)(4) to bring its complaint,
20 its time to do so has past.

21 As to the first reason, Section 365(a) of the
22 Bankruptcy Code requires a motion by the trustee and court
23 approval. It provides, quote, "The trustee, subject to the
24 court's approval, may assume or reject any executory contract
25 or unexpired lease of the debtor," unquote. Section 365(b)(1)

1 is specific that the trustee, quote, "may not assume", unquote,
2 a lease unless the trustee cures any defaults under the lease
3 and provides adequate assurances of future performance under
4 the lease.

5 Moreover, it's well-established law in this
6 jurisdiction under the Second Circuit's Burger Boys decision,
7 93 (sic) F.3d 755, that the trustee's intention to assume or
8 reject an unexpired lease must be made by formal motion filed
9 pursuant to Bankruptcy Rules 6006, 9014 and 9013.

10 The complaint here fails to state a claim because it
11 fails to allege any motion by the trustee seeking a standalone
12 assumption of the lease by the LBI estate. No notice was
13 provided to creditors, the parties-in-interest of a standalone
14 assumption; no cure amounts were offered by the trustee; no
15 adequate assurances were offered by the trustee. Indeed, as we
16 demonstrated in our paper, the clarification letter upon which
17 HWA relies for finding an assumption did not even exist at the
18 time the trustee made his application to approve the purchase
19 agreement nor at the time the application was granted by this
20 Court.

21 And for your reference to the record, the trustee's
22 application is docket number 2 in the LBI case; it was dated
23 9/19, September 19th. The order approving that application,
24 docket number 3, was dated September 20th. And the
25 clarification letter was not entered into or filed with this

1 Court until September 22nd; it's LBI docket number 280.

2 Accordingly, Your Honor, without any notice, motion or
3 intention of the trustee to assume the lease for LBI's own
4 estate at the time of the sale order, the requisite elements
5 for a lease assumption cannot be found. We believe, Your
6 Honor, a sale order bears that out. While it has specific
7 provisions dealing with assumption and assignment of leases to
8 Barclays, it has no provisions regarding any standalone
9 assumptions of any contracts, including the lease.

10 Furthermore, it has specific instructions as to contracts that
11 weren't being dealt with immediately by the sale order, which
12 required the parties to come back by separate motion at a later
13 time.

14 We believe that, consistent with the Second Circuit
15 and your own instructions in the sale order, Your Honor would
16 have required a separate motion at a later time with respect to
17 the assumption of the San Francisco lease.

18 I'm fairly confident that by approving the purchase
19 agreement in general, Your Honor was not, by the terms of the
20 sale order itself, purporting to approve any leases that it had
21 not examined. And, indeed, I've sat in this court enough time
22 to know that Your Honor does not like surprises, but in HWA's
23 view of the world you may be surprised to learn that you
24 purportedly approved an assumption of a lease that had never
25 been submitted to this Court and that you had not actually

1 considered according to the dictates of the Second Circuit
2 Orion Picture case.

3 THE COURT: Let me ask a question about the lease
4 itself. Did Barclays use the space? And if so, for how long
5 and pursuant to what agreements?

6 MR. LUBELL: Barclays did use the space. It was
7 operating under LBI's right to use the space. It used it
8 until -- under that, until the lease was deemed rejected in
9 April. I believe it has -- it's occupying the space still
10 under an agreement with HWA. And it's only a portion of the
11 space. I believe the other part of the space was used by an
12 LBHI entity until April when the lease was deemed rejected.

13 THE COURT: And how much of the space is being
14 occupied?

15 MR. LUBELL: Roughly half.

16 THE COURT: And it's being occupied presently pursuant
17 to a direct agreement between HWA 555 or its agent as landlord
18 and Barclays as tenant, or is it being operated under some
19 other agreement that includes a sublease?

20 MR. LUBELL: I believe it's a direct relationship.
21 There is no sublease agreement.

22 THE COURT: Okay.

23 MR. LUBELL: I think that HWA just doesn't want to own
24 up to the distinction between court approval of a contract
25 among contracting parties and a lease assumption order. The

1 lease assumption that they seek to enforce here is an agreement
2 entered into after the sale order was entered and it plainly
3 states that the trustee shall assume the lease, quote, "in
4 connection with the bankruptcy proceedings", unquote.
5 Moreover, it's an agreement that envisions modifications of the
6 provisions by the parties themselves.

7 I heard the term "moving parts" today, the purchase
8 agreement had several moving parts. And this was done here, as
9 was documented by the waiver letter filed as part of the record
10 of the proceeding in this case in connection with the trustee's
11 motion to extend his time to assume or reject the San Francisco
12 lease. I believe it's something you could take judicial notice
13 of as it's in fact part of the purchase agreement and part of
14 the record of the proceedings involving HWA here.

15 And, finally, the purchase agreement disclaims third-
16 party beneficiary rights by approving the purchase agreement.
17 The Court, we submit, was not ordering relief, that it had not
18 been sought, nor changing the terms of the agreement that
19 allowed the parties themselves to modify their agreement and
20 that limited enforcement to the parties themselves.

21 However, even assuming that a landlord has standing to
22 enforce the sale order so as to enforce the purchase agreement
23 as to the now-waived obligation of the trustee under the
24 clarification letter to assume the San Francisco lease with or
25 without a sublease to Barclays, its time to do so has elapsed.

1 As I'm sure Your Honor will recall, this is round two
2 of this dispute. You had previously said to HWA at the time we
3 moved for the extension of our time to assume or reject the
4 lease that it could seek a declaratory judgment that the lease
5 had been deemed assumed. It's noteworthy that HWA waited until
6 the lease had actually been deemed rejected under Section
7 365(d)(4) before it filed its complaint here. So, Your Honor,
8 even if a third party may enforce the purchase agreement
9 through the sale order, HWA's time to do so has now lapsed.

10 In sum, as the trustee never sought a standalone
11 assumption of the lease; as this Court did not approve the
12 assumption of the lease by the LBI estate; as HWA does not have
13 third-party rights to enforce the purchase agreement; as
14 Barclays, the actual counterparty to the purchase agreement,
15 has waived the requirement of the trustee to assume the lease;
16 and as the time to assume the lease has expired, we believe
17 that there are multiple reasons why this complaint fails to
18 state a claim on which relief may be granted and why it must be
19 dismissed. Thank you, Your Honor.

20 THE COURT: Thank you.

21 MS. GOLDSTEIN: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Stephanie
22 Goldstein from Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson, for
23 HWA Owners; it's an affiliate of Vornado, and that is in fact
24 the landlord for the space in California.

25 Just before I get to my overall presentation, I did

1 want to clarify an issue with respect to Barclays' current use
2 of the space. In fact, the clarification letter that's dated
3 as of September 20th, and specifically referencing Your Honor's
4 sale order, specifically deals with Barclays' entitlement to
5 use the space. As I'm sure Your Honor recalls, there's a
6 provision that deals with one assumption of a number of leases,
7 the one in San Francisco being assumed and not assumed and
8 assigned, and I'll get back to that language. There's then a
9 second provision in the clarification letter that provides that
10 Barclays and LBI would, and the language is actually "shall",
11 enter into a sublease with respect to the premises. And then
12 there's about another half a page dealing with Barclays' right
13 to continue to use the space, pending the parties' -- and
14 that's Barclays' and LBI's -- entry into a sublease agreement.

15 So following the entry of the sale order, Barclays
16 continued to use space at 555 California Street in California,
17 in San Francisco. They used one of two floors in that
18 building; Neuberger Berman was in the other space on the other
19 floor. And their right to use the floor was specified and laid
20 out in the clarification order.

21 As alleged in the complaint, there never has been a
22 sublease entered or presented to the landlord for approval. A
23 sublease satisfactory to the landlord is a requirement of the
24 underlying lease.

25 Subsequent to the deemed rejection date in this

1 proceeding, and because Barclays wanted to continue to use the
2 space, we entered into a contingent license agreement with
3 Barclays that provided if the lease had been rejected as a
4 result of the proceedings before Your Honor, they would have a
5 separate independent right to remain in the premises separate
6 from the clarification letter. That wasn't part of the
7 complaint, but it's come up. We're happy to present you with
8 that underlying license agreement if you find it necessary.

9 THE COURT: Let me just understand one aspect of what
10 you last said. The license agreement is between HWA 555, your
11 client, and Barclays?

12 MS. GOLDSTEIN: That's correct, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: And when was it entered into?

14 MS. GOLDSTEIN: On April 17th.

15 THE COURT: And the deemed rejection date of the lease
16 is what date?

17 MS. GOLDSTEIN: I believe it's April 9th.

18 MR. PFEIFFER: April 17th, Your Honor.

19 MS. GOLDSTEIN: April 17th, sorry.

20 THE COURT: So on the very same day that the lease is
21 deemed rejected, two nondebtors enter into an agreement
22 relating to the occupancy of the space, and that's in lieu of
23 the lease, is that right?

24 MS. GOLDSTEIN: It's contingent. So if in fact as a
25 result of the proceedings the lease had been assumed by the

1 estate and there would be a separate sublease, that would be an
2 alternative. But I think the concern was whether or not
3 Barclays had a right to continue to use the space, which they
4 needed to continue to do, and the landlord was happy to comply
5 with their request to continue to use the space, provided that
6 their right to use the space was not intended to be an argument
7 about whether or not -- the effect of the sale order as it
8 related to the lease in its totality.

9 THE COURT: All right, and what's the term of the
10 sublease -- excuse me, of the sublease -- of the license?

11 MR. PFEIFFER: Brian Pfeiffer from Fried Frank, Your
12 Honor. It expires at the end of August. And, again, just to
13 step back --

14 THE COURT: At the end of this month?

15 MS. GOLDSTEIN: Correct.

16 MR. PFEIFFER: At the end of this month.

17 THE COURT: Okay. And then if it expires within days,
18 do the parties contemplate that it will be extended? Are there
19 negotiations underway relating to continued occupancy and use
20 of the premises?

21 MS. GOLDSTEIN: Yeah, Your Honor, our client is
22 continuing to have a dialogue with Barclays about continued use
23 of the space, and it's hopeful something -- some form of
24 arrangement can be reached. Those conversations are ongoing,
25 and like all of those types of things they remain fluid.

1 THE COURT: Okay. Understood. I just was trying to
2 understand the on-the-ground view of this property.

3 MS. GOLDSTEIN: We're trying to reach a constructive
4 result.

5 I want to return, having answered the questions, those
6 questions, to what got us here to begin with, or at least what
7 put the ball in motion, and going back to almost a year ago now
8 when the Barclays-Lehman deal was presented to this Court for
9 approval. And our very strong view on this is that in this
10 case LBHI made a motion to approve the asset purchase
11 agreement. At that time, the lease affecting the San Francisco
12 property was going to be assumed and assigned to Barclays.
13 Subsequently, after the SIPC proceeding commenced, the trustee
14 obviously -- the trustee for LBI joined LBHI's motion and
15 sought approval as well of the asset purchase agreement.

16 Your Honor obviously recalls more than I, because I
17 wasn't here, but that following the hearing there was a
18 clarification letter as of September 20th that was entered
19 into. And with respect to the lease affecting the San
20 Francisco property, the language was slightly changed from what
21 was originally envisioned in terms of there being an
22 assignment, an assumption and then assignment of the lease in
23 California. And, instead, the language that was put in there,
24 which I just referred to, and probably discussed at some length
25 before, was that on the closing date, and the clarification

1 letter is quite specific that it's a reference to "on the
2 closing date", but the precise language is "Notwithstanding
3 anything to the contrary contained in Sections 4.2(d), 4.3(c),
4 8.14 or any other provisions of the Agreement with respect to
5 the Leased Premises located in (i) 555 California Street, San
6 Francisco, California," and I'll skip over the reference to the
7 other leases, "the Parties agree as follows: (a) as
8 contemplated in the Agreement, on the Closing Date," and then
9 there's (i) dealing with three other leases in other cities.
10 And then it says, "and (ii)", quote, "the underlying lease
11 affecting the San Francisco Property shall be assumed by Seller
12 in connection with the Bankruptcy Proceedings." And that's the
13 precise and exact language that was in the clarification
14 letter. So -- and then we talked about the sublease
15 provisions, et cetera, that went on after that.

16 THE COURT: One of the problems with language,
17 especially when we're trying to find its plain meaning, is that
18 sometimes it isn't so plain. And I'm struggling with "shall be
19 assumed", which is different from "shall be assumed pursuant to
20 the Sale Order" or "shall be deemed assumed pursuant to the
21 Sale Order", both of which are references to the order that was
22 entered on September 20th, versus "shall be assumed", meaning
23 something to be done in the future pursuant to some other
24 motion practice in the bankruptcy court, which never took
25 place.

1 So how do you conclude that it's an actual assumption
2 pursuant to the sale order as opposed to an undertaking to do
3 something in the future that was never done?

4 MS. GOLDSTEIN: A couple of answers to that, Your
5 Honor. With respect to the leases respecting the other
6 properties, and I understand there are different issues there
7 as well, it also uses that same language, which is "shall
8 assume".

9 Additionally, with respect to what qualifies that,
10 it's not just a standalone provision that says "it shall be
11 assumed in connection with the Bankruptcy Proceedings". What
12 qualifies it is the language that precedes it which says "on
13 the Closing Date", which as I read that is that it's specifying
14 a point in time when something is going to happen as opposed to
15 reflecting something that had optionality attached to it.

16 And when you look at the other provisions in the
17 clarification letter dealing with the leases, and I'm referring
18 to the PIM B business leases that come in paragraph 22, it
19 specifically refers to optionality, to whether or not people
20 can choose to assume and assign agreements later, some that
21 would only be assumed and wouldn't be subsequently assigned.

22 But there are specific provisions in the clarification
23 letter that draw a distinction between something saying "on the
24 Closing Date, this is what shall happen" and then having
25 separate provisions in the clarification letter just a couple

1 of paragraphs later that actually go on to say "We shall have
2 the option and that reflect conditionality."

3 And so I think it's laid out in our briefs that we
4 then say yes, the terms and -- all of the conditions of the
5 purchase agreement will become effective, and that's a little
6 bit of a summary and not the language there. But basically I
7 think the fact that it does reference and tie back to the
8 closing date, and I think, in the context of what was happening
9 at the time, it wasn't as if this was not thought about. It's
10 specified quite precisely in the clarification letter. And the
11 San Francisco lease was obviously being thought about from the
12 outset of this transaction because it's referenced in the asset
13 purchase agreement as well when it was going to be assumed and
14 assigned to Barclays.

15 But I think the clarification letter in the
16 negotiations, it gave Barclays the right to use that space
17 following the closing of the transaction, which everyone knew
18 was imminent. And the fact that it says on the closing date
19 the lease shall be assumed, everyone knew the closing date was
20 coming fast and furious, that we weren't -- no one was waiting
21 six months to get antitrust approvals or all sorts of other
22 approvals that sometimes are necessary in other types of
23 transactions.

24 THE COURT: Well, a variety of mistakes were made in
25 the heat of the moment last September, and several motions were

1 presented in the months that followed, seeking to cure mistakes
2 that were made in the listing of executory contracts that were
3 supposedly closing-date contracts. There was a computer error
4 alleged by Cleary Gottlieb in connection with a post-closing
5 adjustment. There was litigation with American Express
6 concerning whether or not a particular contract was in fact
7 assumed and assigned. And that's understandable because a
8 tremendous amount of work was being done during a crisis over
9 just a few days.

10 Was this lease ever expressly listed in a decretal
11 paragraph of any order of the Court?

12 MS. GOLDSTEIN: It is not expressly listed in a
13 decretal paragraph. It is listed on the schedules to the asset
14 purchase agreement, and it's listed on schedules to the
15 clarification letter, but it's not specifically referenced in
16 the order.

17 THE COURT: One of the problems, I think, with the
18 clarification letter is that my best recollection is I never
19 approved that. My recollection is that it was entered into
20 either the Monday or the Tuesday following the weekend when the
21 transaction was closing. And a variety of issues arose in
22 respect of the clarification letter during the period
23 immediately following the closing, but it was never actually
24 made the subject of a formal motion that it be approved,
25 although it was a long time ago. So if you have either a

1 better recollection or have checked out what the docket
2 reflects, I'll be happy to hear what you have to say, but my
3 recollection is that I never approved it.

4 MS. GOLDSTEIN: Your Honor, I wasn't here so I can't
5 comment. I do know that in the order that approves the sale
6 transaction it does refer to and it defines the purchase
7 agreement as including the asset purchase agreement. There was
8 a first amendment and then the clarification letter. My
9 understanding from some of my colleagues is that some of the
10 terms of the clarification letter were discussed in court over
11 that Friday, that marathon --

12 THE COURT: We've had a lot of hearings that have
13 touched on the sale to Barclays, both contemporaneously and
14 after the fact, and the clarification letter obviously will
15 speak for itself and it's not in evidence other than through
16 judicial notice at this point, but it is my recollection that
17 it was entered into after the closing, during the business days
18 that followed, and that it was never the subject of a separate
19 motion for court approval. To the extent that it was somehow
20 obliquely referenced in transaction documents doesn't
21 necessarily mean that it's the subject of a formal court order.
22 And that's one of the problems that I'm having with your legal
23 position, which is, as argued by the trustee, there really is
24 no freestanding motion to assume the lease at 555 California
25 Street, nor is there an omnibus motion to assume leases. It's

1 hard to connect the dots.

2 And so I'm going to listen carefully to your argument,
3 but one of my concerns here is that there is actually no clear
4 court order that covers this lease. And it becomes difficult
5 as a result, in the face of the trustee's objection, to
6 demonstrate that this was in fact assumed.

7 MS. GOLDSTEIN: Well, I hear you. And many of our
8 arguments, quite frankly, are teed off the fact that the
9 purchase agreement and the order approving the sale transaction
10 is defined to include the clarification letter. And, quite
11 frankly, everyone operated, at least on our end, after the fact
12 in letting Barclays continue to use the premises on the
13 assumption that the terms of the clarification letter were part
14 of that purchase agreement and that it gave the Barclays
15 employees a right to use that space.

16 You know, the other arguments do come from the fact of
17 whether or not -- and they're laid out in our briefs, so I
18 won't belabor them now. We do believe it was assumed. We do
19 believe the clarification order, in terms of the clear language
20 provided in that, knew how to contemplate future action when it
21 was necessary. And that's following the closing of the
22 transaction. It was quite some time before we heard that LBI
23 was taking a different position with respect to the lease
24 that's currently at issue.

25 We also believe --

1 THE COURT: So one of the questions I have, and this
2 really isn't addressed to you as much as it is to the people
3 who are sitting in the courtroom, is there anybody here who is
4 representing the interests of Barclays?

5 Apparently not.

6 What's concerning to me is that there's this very
7 technical legal argument being made by the LBI trustee and by
8 you with regard to what parties contemplated last September at
9 the time of the sale transaction. Barclays has been using the
10 space. And since April, you've told me, Barclays has been
11 using the space by private agreement with HWA 555.

12 So the real parties-in-interest here as it relates to
13 the use and occupancy of the space are the landlord and, in
14 this instance, the contingent licensee. I presume your
15 position is they're either there because the lease was assumed
16 or they're there pursuant to the license agreement, but they're
17 there and they're paying rent, or something in lieu of rent,
18 which is acceptable, at least for the time being, to your
19 client, correct?

20 MS. GOLDSTEIN: For the time being, Your Honor,
21 they're using one of two floors; they're not using all of the
22 space. So it impacts half of the overall -- of the lease.

23 THE COURT: Well, I understand, but what I'm finding
24 baffling here is that the party potentially to be adversely
25 affected by the conclusion that the lease is assumed is

1 Barclays, I presume, since they're the ones that would be using
2 the space pursuant to the assumed lease because they allegedly
3 bought the right to use it. Why aren't they here? Where have
4 they been in all this?

5 MR. LUBELL: If you recall, Your Honor, this issue did
6 come up at the time we moved to extend our time to assume or
7 reject the leases. Barclays did put in papers to the effect
8 that a standalone assumption had not been done and that it was
9 in fact in this waiver letter, the intent of the parties, that
10 it would be done by separate motion, and that it was in fact
11 waived if they weren't going to order us to assume it by April
12 17th.

13 This is an adversary complaint that was brought; they
14 weren't named as a party in the complaint itself. If HWA were
15 to prevail on the complaint, it would make the LBI estate
16 liable for the entire space for the entire two years, that it's
17 an administrative expense, which is something that was never
18 addressed in any of the motions to approve the purchase
19 agreement.

20 And at least in the trustee's motion, the
21 clarification letter was not in the trustee's motion or in the
22 form of order that he was seeking to approve. There was a
23 mention of it that did get slipped in into the one that was
24 entered in the LBHI case that you were approving the purchase
25 agreement, which included the clarification letter.

1 But we still say that HWA does not have the right to
2 enforce that agreement by the terms of it and that under that
3 agreement, as you pointed out, we were supposed to, if Barclays
4 made us, assume the lease in connection with the bankruptcy
5 proceedings. But like many things else, it was all a moving
6 target that the parties agreed to modify and which they
7 modified in writing. And the obligation, from our point of
8 view, disappeared. And from HWA's point of view, there had
9 never been a motion to approve a standalone assumption of this
10 lease.

11 And your sale order only addressed assumption and
12 assignment of leases to Barclays, which from the LBI estate
13 really has the effect of releasing us from liabilities, not
14 imposing ten million dollars and two years' worth of
15 liabilities on the estate, which is quite a different issue and
16 which was never addressed with the Court at the time it entered
17 its order.

18 THE COURT: I appreciate that explanation, but I still
19 don't understand why Barclays isn't here to be heard. I
20 recognize this is an adversary proceeding between the trustee
21 of LBI and HWA 555 as landlord, but it directly affects
22 Barclays' use and occupancy of at least one floor at this
23 location in San Francisco. They're well aware of the fact that
24 there's a dispute concerning this because they entered into a
25 private agreement with the landlord relating to the occupancy

1 of this space that had presumably, although it's not before me,
2 as one of its contingencies the fact that there's this dispute
3 over lease assumption. They don't care. You haven't sought
4 indemnity from them. You haven't sought to involve them. I
5 don't get this. I don't understand how the LBI trustee --

6 MR. LUBELL: I believe --

7 THE COURT: -- could be on the hook for millions of
8 dollars relating to a transaction that you had nothing to do in
9 designing.

10 MR. LUBELL: I believe we may have some agreement with
11 Barclays in terms of, if the lease were deemed assumed, that
12 they would still be obligated to the sublease in the
13 clarification letter. But as I say, this is something that HWA
14 is trying to enforce in essentially an agreement among the
15 contracting parties that, according to your sale order and
16 according to the agreement itself, allowed for modification and
17 which was in fact modified.

18 THE COURT: You just told me two very inconsistent
19 things in the last five minutes.

20 MR. LUBELL: Okay.

21 THE COURT: I just want to be sure I know what's
22 right. On the one hand you told me that the estate of LBI
23 would be exposed to millions of dollars of unintended liability
24 associated with the assumption of this lease, and on the other
25 hand you told me that there's some kind of back agreement with

1 Barclays that in the event that happens Barclays is
2 responsible. Which is it?

3 MR. LUBELL: Well, but you've got to recall, Your
4 Honor, that the lease -- the Barclays space is only half the
5 lease. So when I say that it's ten million dollars, five
6 million dollars, you know, would relate to the sublease. And
7 there was some formula in there.

8 And I believe, in connection with one of our last
9 lease rejection -- extension rejection motions, that there was
10 some provision that did deal with this contingency, if this
11 came up, that gave the LBI trustee some recourse against
12 Barclays. I mean, we are in a strange situation too where they
13 proceeded with a sublease of what they're saying is still
14 property of the estate and the like, which to me suggests that
15 they don't believe it themselves that there's an ongoing lease.

16 THE COURT: Well, just so it's clear, I heard it
17 described as a license, not a sublease.

18 MR. LUBELL: Right, but it's essentially using what
19 they're saying is our space that we assumed.

20 THE COURT: Well, that document's not in front of me;
21 we don't need to spend a lot of time on it.

22 MR. LUBELL: Okay.

23 THE COURT: I was just trying to confirm --

24 MR. LUBELL: Okay.

25 THE COURT: -- the term that you used.

1 MR. LUBELL: I really think the point is that, you
2 know, there were motions here to assume and assign leases, that
3 there was no termination by the trustee to proceed with a
4 standalone assumption of the lease. They did enter into an
5 agreement after the Court approved the purchase agreement in
6 our proceeding. It did say we would -- shall assume the lease
7 in connection with the bankruptcy proceedings. The parties
8 continue to negotiate about that and about many other things.

9 And we never brought a formal motion. You never
10 entered a formal order. They -- you know, I heard it referred
11 to as a clarification order, but it's just an agreement among
12 the parties that didn't give them any rights to enforce it,
13 that gave us the right to modify it, which we did, and that
14 when they did come around to seek to enforce it, it was the day
15 that the lease was in fact deemed rejected and it was the day
16 that they seemed to have entered into their license agreement
17 there.

18 And I think all those facts together require dismissal
19 of the complaint because there was not a standalone assumption
20 of the lease by the LBI estate.

21 THE COURT: Okay, well, you ended up getting two bites
22 at the apple because I was in the middle of hearing from HWA
23 555's counsel. As a point of clarification, you came up, we
24 had some colloquy, and you've now made a second argument why
25 you should win. I think I should give landlord's counsel an

1 opportunity to --

2 MR. LUBELL: That's fine. That's fine.

3 THE COURT: -- push back.

4 MR. LUBELL: Okay. And there goes our half hour.

5 MS. GOLDSTEIN: That's why I always say that the time
6 estimates are usually incorrect.

7 Just reflecting as I was listening, and also on Your
8 Honor's point about, sort of, technical arguments on both
9 sides, and I think this goes back to Burger Boys and the
10 substance of Burger Boys, which is that yes, you need a motion,
11 but nothing in Burger Boys dictates the type of motion that has
12 to be presented or what it has to actually say.

13 The point of it, and it's made perfectly clear in
14 Burger Boys, is that the party is to give opportunity to the
15 landlord to be heard. Here we had an opportunity to be heard;
16 we were here. And I use "we" because it wasn't me; my
17 colleagues were here at the time of the sale order. There was
18 an opportunity to be heard if there was an issue with respect
19 to the assumption. LBI happened to be up to date on its
20 payments on the lease, so there was really nothing for us to
21 complain about at the time.

22 And so I think the whole flavor of Burger Boys and
23 what that's intended to address is that unfairness to the
24 landlord and being deprived of the opportunity to object to a
25 motion to assume is not the situation Your Honor was presented

1 with here.

2 We are mindful, obviously, that there was a lot going
3 on at the time, and a lot of people were working incredibly
4 hard to try to ensure that the sale to Barclays would take
5 place. The one thing that remains somewhat mystifying to me
6 and unanswered in my mind is with respect to the clarification
7 letter, which is how language that said "On the Closing Date,
8 the lease affecting the San Francisco Property shall be assumed
9 by Seller in connection with the Bankruptcy Proceedings" was
10 put in followed by a page and a half discussing subleases and
11 the requirement of the parties to enter into subleases and the
12 use of the underlying premises in the interim. It was clearly
13 something that was thought about at the time, and we clearly
14 relied on it following the sale to Barclays.

15 With respect to the waiver letter, I think we all --
16 all of it returns to the same point that we were talking about
17 earlier, which is what is the impact of the Court's order.
18 Insofar as the court order, which has specific provisions
19 providing that all of its provisions of the asset purchase
20 agreement, which is defined to include the clarification
21 letter, are being approved and the debtors were supposed to
22 take actions to effectuate the provisions of those agreements,
23 insofar as the order effectuated the assumption of the lease,
24 which we believe was the case, based on the language in the
25 transaction documents, there's nothing for the parties to waive

1 after the fact.

2 And, in fact, there are a number of cases that look
3 quite skeptically at parties who after the fact tried to modify
4 obligations to say something, saying -- and that's the Delta
5 case and the Chabor (ph.) case that are cited in our papers --
6 saying you have to look most skeptically when after the fact
7 people are offering interpretations about what the intent was
8 at the time. We don't think the waiver letter complies with
9 paragraph 26, in any event, of the sale order because I
10 don't -- LBHI hasn't approved it, and neither has the
11 creditors' committee. It was an agreement signed only by
12 Barclays and by LBI.

13 So we think -- for all of those reasons, we believe
14 the lease was assumed in connection with the sale order. We
15 think that if there's any doubt as to what the trustee intended
16 at the time and what they were thinking about as between LBI
17 and Barclays, the proper approach is to conduct discovery,
18 which could be limited to particular issues as to the lease at
19 that point in time and what was contemplated as to the lease
20 and as between LBI and Barclays, so that we have a clear
21 picture of what truly was intended as opposed to after-the-fact
22 rationalizations about what was intended.

23 As to the argument my colleague here raises about now
24 that we've waited too long, that was never an argument that
25 they've raised before this argument. So I think it's not

1 properly subject to consideration. As I reflect on it before
2 Your Honor, though, we were working with people, we were trying
3 our best to get things resolved in a way that would be most
4 productive for the estate and for our client and all concerned.
5 We obviously took until as much time as we thought was
6 appropriate in the hope that we wouldn't need to burden the
7 Court with this issue. Unfortunately, that didn't come to
8 pass, which necessitated the filing of the adversary complaint,
9 but it was filed before the deemed rejected date and we think
10 it's proper for consideration by the Court.

11 If you have no other questions --

12 THE COURT: I actually have a question for counsel for
13 the trustee. And it's just, in part, a function of the passage
14 of time and my lack of direct recollection of something. Were
15 any leases assumed in connection with the sale order itself?

16 MR. LUBELL: Standalone assumption, no.

17 THE COURT: No, I'm not -- that's not my question. My
18 question is --

19 MR. LUBELL: Were they assumed and assigned to
20 Barclays? Yes.

21 THE COURT: Let me start over. The principle argument
22 that I hear being made by counsel for HWA 555 is that the
23 transaction documents, when read together with the order --
24 actually, orders, plural -- approving the sale to Barclays on
25 September 20th constitute an assumption by the trustee of the

1 lease at 555 California Street in San Francisco. My question
2 is whether there are any leases which were in fact assumed in
3 accordance with that order, and if so, what leases are they and
4 is Barclays occupying premises pursuant to such leases?

5 MR. LUBELL: Your Honor, there were several leases, by
6 the specific terms of your order, that were assumed and
7 assigned to Barclays under 365(f), and Barclays presumably are
8 occupying those leases. I think originally the San Francisco
9 lease may have been on that list, but it was specifically
10 excluded as one of the leases to be specifically assumed and
11 assigned to Barclays. And -- well, that's the answer to your
12 question.

13 So, no, this specific contract was not assumed and
14 assigned to Barclays, nor was there any standalone assumption
15 by the trustee. I think that's the point of Burger Boys, that
16 you need to find that intention in the motion to approve.

17 And in the liquidation context, I think it's important
18 that it's not just the landlord who has a concern here, as in
19 the assumption and assignment context, but the whole estate
20 about taking on a ten million dollar liability two years when
21 you're liquidating.

22 There was supposed to be a -- I mean, we're getting a
23 little far afield, but this idea of a sublease, I believe, was
24 initially rejected by HWA when they were approached about it
25 and then was one of the reasons why there never was any push to

1 proceed with the sublease.

2 In terms of reliance, there couldn't really be
3 reliance because there was never a standalone motion to --
4 never a motion to approve a standalone assumption of the lease.
5 And like I've -- I don't mean to be repetitive, but we did have
6 the right in the agreement that you approved to modify that
7 agreement, and this is the whole purchase agreement itself, and
8 we did have the right. And third parties were not to have the
9 right to essentially tell us that we have to assume after the
10 parties have agreed that was not necessary, and especially now
11 when Barclays has made its own arrangements with the landlord.

12 I also don't believe in the sale order, the form of
13 the sale order that we sought approval for in this proceeding,
14 that there was any requirement that LBHI or the creditors'
15 committee agreed to any modifications of agreements between
16 Barclays and ourselves. You won't find that in the form of the
17 approval order, just like you won't find any reference to the
18 clarification letter. And even if LBHI and the committee
19 needed to consent, I believe you could find their consent when
20 this issue was raised back when we were seeking further time to
21 assume or reject the lease and extension of time to assume or
22 reject the lease.

23 THE COURT: I have a question for counsel for the
24 landlord. You mentioned discovery. What discovery would you
25 need and what discovery is pertinent to this dispute?

1 MS. GOLDSTEIN: I think the pertinent discovery
2 relates to the communications between the debtors and Barclays,
3 and I'm not saying lumped together but around the time of the
4 sale transaction and the negotiations with respect to the lease
5 in San Francisco and the discussions after the fact with
6 Barclays about the sublease.

7 Mr. Lubell referred to -- or stated that HWA was not
8 amenable to a sublease. That is not accurate. I don't know
9 where that comes from. And that certainly is not the case.
10 But clearly those would be the two main categories of discovery
11 that I think would be appropriate with respect to the issues
12 here, which I think are quite straightforward.

13 THE COURT: Okay.

14 The trustee has presented a very strong motion to
15 dismiss, but notwithstanding that, I'm not going to grant it
16 today and would urge that instead it be converted into a motion
17 for summary judgment to be presented on a future date following
18 the taking of such discovery as is appropriate under the
19 circumstances of this case.

20 Now, in making this proposal, I am mindful of the
21 Second Circuit's recent decision in the Dana case in which, in
22 the context of a claim objection, the district court and the
23 bankruptcy court were reversed because of a failure on the part
24 of the bankruptcy court to permit requested discovery. That's
25 not to say that every time a party requests discovery that the

1 discovery is appropriate. Nor is it true that every time a
2 party requests discovery that it's a reason not to grant an
3 otherwise strong motion to dismiss as a matter of law. But
4 there are aspects of this argument that trouble me. One of the
5 things that troubles me is that Barclays isn't here and that
6 there seems to be a real party-in-interest, with real economics
7 and real interest in the space, apparently relying on LBI to do
8 its dirty work. That may or may not be the case, but that's
9 the appearance.

10 It's also not at all clear to me what the actual
11 consequences to the LBI estate will be if the lease is deemed
12 assumed versus the lease is deemed rejected. When I asked some
13 questions about that, counsel provided some answers but they
14 were general in nature: Ten million dollars went to five
15 million dollars.

16 I also don't understand the circumstances surrounding
17 Barclays' waiver of whatever rights it had under the
18 clarification letter. And the clarification letter is one of
19 the most incorrectly named documents ever written. It's just
20 not that clear, and never was.

21 So while I totally agree with the notion that it takes
22 a motion in order to assume a lease, it's not clear to me
23 whether or not, in all of the pushing and shoving that was
24 going on last September, there was or was not an intention to
25 sweep this lease into the sale transaction. There may or may

1 not have been. And the fact that the option was included to
2 assume this lease in the clarification letter suggests that
3 Barclays may have wanted to retain the option, but that's not
4 clear to me either.

5 So I'm not granting the motion to dismiss, nor am I
6 denying it. I'm going to permit the parties to enter into a
7 stipulation to take reasonable discovery, not burdensome
8 discovery, and that when such discovery has been completed the
9 parties may submit supplemental briefing, to the extent
10 necessary, that references that discovery.

11 And the motion to dismiss will be converted into a
12 dispositive motion. There'll be no need to file an answer.
13 And I am assuming that there will be no need for a trial. This
14 is a summary matter.

15 Mr. Lubell?

16 MR. LUBELL: I just think that Burger Boys is your
17 bright-line test. There's either --

18 THE COURT: Why don't you stand up if you're going to
19 be speaking to the law?

20 MR. LUBELL: I was going to say Burger Boys is your
21 bright-line test as to whether there was a motion to -- for a
22 standalone assumption of the lease. And under that, no
23 matter -- I mean, that's a fact you could look into the record
24 on already. I mean, we were in this case all of one day when
25 the sale order was granted. I'm not sure that going over

1 discovery after that point is going to change the fact that
2 there was never a motion.

3 THE COURT: Look, I'm not a fan of needless discovery,
4 nor am I a fan of needless litigation, but a number of things
5 have happened in the last eleven months as it relates to the
6 sale transaction: One is that special counsel for LBHI, Jones
7 Day, has come forward to take 2004 discovery relating to
8 whether or not Barclays did everything it was supposed to do in
9 connection with the original deal. It's within that setting
10 that when questions are raised as to whether parties have done
11 the right thing I look closely.

12 MR. LUBELL: Okay. I understand, Your Honor. I was
13 just hoping to --

14 THE COURT: And there were enough moving parts at that
15 time. The questions relating to the intent of the parties,
16 including Barclays, not here, as it relates to this lease,
17 represent issues that I'm concerned about, and I think that
18 some discovery may be appropriate. I'm hardly directing it,
19 and it shouldn't be a fishing expedition. If the parties
20 determine that discovery is either limited in nature or
21 unnecessary, and as a result with letter briefs you can simply
22 advise me as to what the status is, there's no need to further
23 argue this; I'll consider it on the papers. But I'm holding
24 the motion to dismiss in abeyance pending the completion of
25 discovery, and it shouldn't take a lot of time.

1 MR. LUBELL: Okay, Your Honor. I understand.

2 THE COURT: I'd like to think that it would be
3 concluded within no more than sixty days.

4 MR. LUBELL: Thank you, Your Honor.

5 THE COURT: Is there anything more?

6 We're adjourned.

7 (Proceedings concluded at 3:35 p.m.)
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I N D E X

R U L I N G S

PAGE LINE

Motion to dismiss the litigation is denied

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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, Esther Accardi, certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

ESTHER ACCARDI (CET**D-485)

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